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Habitat for Humanity page 2 Anne of Green Gables page 9 A Ski-Mazing summer page 13

Batter up
May Moore dons her Minden Minor Baseball League shirt as she prepares for her first season playing ball. The teams meet weekly over the course of the summer months, and attracts hundreds of kids from around the area. /submitted by Clem Moore

Minden Hills updates municipal bylaws for next term

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

The Buy Ontario Act was passed in December of 2025 and has brought changes to municipalities across Ontario. This act prioritizes Ontario-made goods and services to bolster local businesses and supply chains where possible and economically feasible.

Zack Drinkwaleter, director of finance for Minden Hills, spoke to council at their meeting held on Thursday, June 25 to address needed changes to the municipal bylaw.

"As you know, the cost of things from 2004 to today is quite a bit different," said Zack Drinkwalter."

Streamlining RFPs

Drinkwalter says that if Minden Hills puts out a bid for tenders, very few will go through the process if it is less than $15,000. Staff are frequently visiting MH council to bypass the procurement policy.

Now, the new bylaw allows staff to streamline the procurement process with purchases under $100,000 without needing a Request for Proposal (RFP).

This "will ensure contractors are still chosen fairly and equitably through informal and formal quotes," writes Drinkwalter's letter to council.

"The time it takes for someone to go through an RFP, the time it takes for somebody to apply, we aren't getting a lot of responses," he said.

Drinkwalter hopes the changes to the RFP process makes it easier for local contractors to throw their hat in the ring. He says it will be easier and MH should see an increase of local companies working on municipal jobs.

With the new policy, staff are now able to accept electronic bids, receive mail in bids, or hand delivered bids. This change is to also increase the number of bidders. Staff from MH will also investigate services like Biddingo to help with the RFP process.

The new bylaw also includes the means to disqualify companies and contractors from jobs.

Drinkwalter says that fraud and "significant or repeated failure to perform contractual obligations" will be considered before a contractor is disqualified.

Councillor Bob Sisson asked if Drinkwalter had reviewed what the County charges.

"I would support the treasurer's comparison to lower tiered municipalities because the services are going to be very similar to what we provide," said CAO Cynthia Fletcher.

Credit cards for staff

Drinkwalter proposed providing some staff with credit cards with a purchase limit of $10,000.

Staff such as CAO Cynthia Fletcher, Drinkwalter, and MH department heads would have access to such cards.

"I do have problems with some of the limits," said McKelvey. "I don't know why we wouldn't be the same as theirs."

Fletcher says that several people approach her to use her credit card. While she uses it occasionally, she sees benefit in more staff having their own to save time.

"I won't agree to $10,000," said

see MINDEN STAFF page 16

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Next steps for Habitat build

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The County of Haliburton is taking their next steps for affordable housing in the area. During the regular meeting of County council last Wednesday, June 24, Habitat for Humanity came to the table to request to prepare and jointly submit an application to Infrastructure Ontario, seeking $15.5 million to support the organization's identified housing projects in the area.

The request comes on the heels of a May 27 meeting just a few short weeks ago, where Habitat for Humanity's CEO Susan Zambonin first made the request for partnership. At the time, council directed staff to look into financial implications of the ask. Councillor Bob Carter, the Mayor of Minden Hills, removed himself from the room based on pecuniary interest of the report, noting that he is on the board for Habitat for Humanity.

The two projects in question include 25 units on Peninsula Road, and multiple units on Wigamog Road, housed in the former Haliburton Heights timeshare.

At last week's council meeting, Zambonin explained why the organization is seeking a partnership in a loan from Infrastructure Ontario, noting that if they were to borrow from a bank, they would be facing up to $1 million in interest rates. "As a charity, every dollar saved, or every million dollars saved, helps us serve more families," she said. "Once construction financing is secured, we will be able to start selecting and approving our families. We're not waiting until the build is complete."

In order to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home, it is a requirement that the applicants complete 500 volunteer hours. "We'll be asking them to do those within the county," said Zambonin. "We're not asking them to come to Peterborough to volunteer."

"Support from County council on these projects would definitely help us serve more families," she said.

The Municipal Act allows for a municipality's ability to borrow money up to 25 per cent of its "own source" revenues, noted Andrea Robinson, the director of corporate services for the County. This limit is called the Annual Repayment Limit. "Own source" revenues include property taxes, user fees and investment income.

"The recommendations put before council provides the opportunity to support the creation of 57 affordable housing units," said Robinson, "with minimal risk to the County, and with no direct budget impacts."

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor for Highlands East, expressed concern that of 57 units, how many would be dedicated specifically to Haliburton County residents, with Habitat for Humanity operating in Lindsay and Peterborough as well. Zambomin confirmed that they intend to market specifically to the local population, with hopes of attracting either current residents, or those looking to move to the area for work.

> *"As a charity, every dollar saved, or every million dollars saved, helps us serve more families.*
>
> — Susan Zambomin, Habitat for Humanity

Council agreed to enter into an agreement with Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region, respecting the repayment of the Infrastructure Ontario loan related to the jointly submitted application.

First official Canoe FM Day marked in the Highlands

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Mark your calendars, July 4 may be Independence Day to some, but here in the Haliburton Highlands, it's officially been designated as Canoe FM Day.

Approved at last week's regular meeting of County council, the significant day was chosen to be recognized in honour of the hard work and dedication the local radio station does for the community.

"The proclamation encourages all residents to celebrate the voices of their neighbours, recognize the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, and support the community radio station that has been informing, entertaining, and connecting our communities for decades," said Roxanne Casey, the manager of the station.

Casey noted that this recognition comes at a significant time, as the station prepares for their annual Radiothon, running from July 3 to 5. "Every year, our listeners, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters come together to ensure that local community radio continues to thrive in Haliburton County," she said. "This year, however, we face an unexpected and urgent challenge."

The station is on the hook to replace the Bell copper transmission line, that connects the studios to the tower on Skyline Park. "(It is) an essential piece of infrastructure that allows us to bring local news, emergency information, community events, music, and the voices of our neighbours to listeners across the region," said Casey. "It is a significant and unforeseen expense that we must address while continuing to fund the day-to-day operations that keep Canoe FM on the air."

To raise awareness and support the station, Casey has put a call out to the community to tune in on July 4. "We are asking local businesses throughout Haliburton County to join in the celebration by tuning in and playing Canoe FM in their stores, offices, restaurants, waiting rooms, and workplaces," she said. "It is a simple but powerful way to support local community radio, showcase local voices, and help spread awareness of the important work being done during our Radiothon."

As the big day approaches, Casey reflected on the significance of a local radio since its inception in 2001. "Community radio is unlike any other service," she said. "It is powered by volunteers, built on local stories, and dedicated to serving the people who call Haliburton County home. When emergencies happen, when local organizations need a voice, when musicians need a platform, and when residents want to stay connected to their community, Canoe FM is there."

To celebrate the official Canoe FM Day, Town Crier Bruce Kruger visited Canoe FM on Friday, June 26, to formally read the proclamation on the steps of the station. "The proclamation of Canoe FM Day is more than a recognition of a radio station," said Casey. "It is a celebration of the hundreds of volunteers who have shared their time, talents, and passion over the years. It is a tribute to our listeners who tune in every day. And it is a reminder that community radio belongs to all of us."

Town crier Bruce Kruger reads the official proclamation of Canoe FM Day, set for July 4, 2026. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

OPP reports find 'fluctuating' numbers

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Crime rates have stayed fairly steady over the past three years.

The majority of the regular meeting of County council on Wednesday, June 24, was dedicated to reviewing the 2025 detachment board report from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

Detachment Commander Debra McClure presented the 27-page report, noting that 2025 was the final year of the current Haliburton Highlands Detachment Action Plan, which has been in place since 2023.

"I am proud of the dedication, professionalism and work undertaken by our members throughout 2025," she said in her report.

The report outlines a number of primary areas of focus that the detachment has undertaken over the past two years, including the commitment to reduce the harmful impact on communities from the production and trafficking of opioids and other illicit drugs in Haliburton Highlands.

"We remain committed to reducing the harmful impact of opioid production and trafficking, as well as other illicit drugs, on communities throughout Haliburton Highlands," said the commander. "Throughout the reporting period, enforcement activity increased, with a focused effort on disrupting the illegal distribution of synthetic drugs and opioids."

McClure noted that throughout the duration of this action plan, the overall number of charges declined. "This downward trend reflects the effectiveness of coordinated enforcement, community partnerships, education efforts and prevention-focused strategies in reducing drug-related harm across Haliburton County," she said.

Other areas of focus that McClure noted through her report include effective case management of all property crime investigations with a goal of minimizing harm and victimization, to seek out and identify efficiencies in integrated, collaborative response solutions in providing support to community members who are experiencing a mental health crisis, and to support and optimize the Haliburton Highlands Auxiliary Program for crime prevention and community engagement.

McClure also noted the local detachment's presence on trails, waterways, and roads.

"These sustained efforts have been a key contributing factor to the steady year-over-year decline in collisions within Haliburton County," she said, referencing the focus on reducing impaired, distracted and aggressive driving. "In 2025 alone, collisions decreased by 18 per cent, reflecting the positive impact of targeted enforcement, data-driven deployment and a consistent commitment to traffic safety."

Another point of pride for the local detachment was the re-establishment of the Haliburton County Tri-Services Committee. "We are pleased to support the re-establishment of the Haliburton County Tri-Services Committee, and are proud to be an active contributing partner," said McClure. "By bringing police, fire, and paramedic services back together in a coordinated forum, we strengthen communication, enhance inter-operability, and ensure a unified approach to community safety."

One theme noted by McClure in recent years is a growing demand for mental health-related support. "The detachment partnered with Haliburton Highlands Health Services to implement a coordinated response model for mental health calls," she explained. "This integrated approach has resulted in fewer repeat occurrences, enhanced access to local resources, and a strengthened partnership with health service providers."

Over the three years, McClure shared that there have been 11,305 events called in, with 3,100 requiring immediate police response.

With a posting of crimes over the measured time period, 2025 saw a total of 203 violent crimes, with 2024 seeing 151, and 2023 coming in at 188. The majority of those were assaults/firearm related offences. McClure outlined a number of additional crimes, accidents, and fatalities, with all numbers fluctuating over the three year period, with no major numbers jumping out year over year.

McClure closed by explaining the newly developed OPP Service Delivery Model (SDM). The program is largely developed to promote officer wellness through balanced workloads, determine adequate staffing levels at each detachment, and ensure the continued delivery of adequate and effective policing services in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act.

> *"We remain committed to reducing the harmful impact of opioid production and trafficking ..."*
>
> — Debra McClure, OPP Detachment Commander

To monitor progress and guide detachment-level planning, the OPP has established time allocation targets for provincial constables, which includes 40 per cent of time dedicated to calls of service, 34 per cent for administrative requirements, 21 per cent for proactive patrol, and five per cent for community engagement. The targets are based on a provincial average, and variations are expected between detachments due to differences in geography, operational structure, recruitment and leave of absence rates.

"Detachments may face challenges in achieving these targets, but progress is expected as scheduling, data quality and strategic deployment continue to improve," said McClure. She noted that total frontline hours for local OPP were 59,808 in 2025.

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, noted the stability in the past few years as identified in the report. "What we're concerned about is now and the future," he said. "So what keeps you up at night in all this? Are you feeling pretty good that you have the foundation that you need to keep us at these levels?"

McClure shared that stability and consistency have helped. They are actively recruiting for the local detachment, and a few of the recent hires are local to the area. "I think we're doing a great job with our recruitment and getting auxiliary members here," she said. "And I do think we're on a great trend to continue to keep our community safe."

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HE undecided on fining system for non–compliant STR operators

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Highlands East had a full agenda at the last regular meeting of council on Tuesday, June 23. There was thoughtful debate over amendments to the Short Term Rental (STR) licensing program, and the demerit point system versus a fining system. Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall indicated he wanted input from STR license holders on this topic.

Short term rental update

Short Term Rental Clerk Stacey Brown presented council with the monthly operational report for the STR licensing program.

Brown reported that 11 renewal applications were completed and seven brand-new applications for licenses were received in the month of May. Year-to-date, 31 renewals have been completed.

Seventy-four applications are active, 30 applications are pending, 12 applications have been denied. Total applications received since November 2024 rest at 144, according to the report.

The report indicates in and around Highlands East there are 127 STRs. The total STR listings are reported at 189.

Brown suggested adding hot tubs and saunas to the definition for Water Access Dwellings to alleviate confusion.

Input for enforcement wanted from STR operators

Deputy Mayor Ryall went through the list of suggestions in the report and wants to meet with operators to receive feedback regarding a demerit-type enforcement system or fine-based system. Currently, there are less illegal, "fly by night" operators, he said.

"It is time to involve the operators. We are left with a good bunch of people trying their best to operate a business inside our jurisdiction," said Ryall. "To me, that decision requires input from the people who will be regulated by this, and their input whether we should be fining or demerit-pointing people."

Ryall emphasized that he thinks STR operator input regarding enforcement would be very important, but he is unsure of how to go about seeking it.

It was noted that it does not make sense to remove demerit points from someone who does not have a license. The demerit point system was noted to "slowing things down." Brown noted that the fines help neighbours and people in the community who are affected by non-license holders.

Visibility on dashboard map debated

Public visibility on the online dashboard map remains a concern amongst constituents for privacy reasons. The opt in or opt out option was suggested previously by council.

Brown reported that staff findings show the opt in/opt out model "reduces accuracy and completeness and limits effectiveness for transparency and enforcement and they do not recommend it."

Councillor Angela Lewis indicated that Highlands East is the "least invasive" compared to other municipalities with the map and agreed they cannot have an opt in/opt out option for the public STR map.

Deputy Mayor Ryall attests that the map helps visitors know they are renting from a licensed operator, and it is important renters do their due diligence, yet the feedback he has received is that people do not wish their information on the map. The information is a license number and address that is listed.

Council noted they have heard from people about concerns regarding theft, fraud, and also the perception that guests may not want to stay at a place that is "being rented all the time."

Council also noted that they have had some operators shift to be in favour of the map, and have seen their business increase.

Mayor Dave Burton seemed in favour of the opt in or opt out option. Ryall suggested the amount of hits of people using the map could help them make an informed decision and "just deal with the handful of people who do not wish to be on the map."

Council will defer making the decision until they hear back from the webmaster on the number of users on the map.

STR revenue report

In 2025, the STR program generated a total gross revenue of $92,102, primarily from licensing fees. After the required remittance of $20,671 to the County of Haliburton, with total net revenue listed as $71,439.

After expenses totalled $65,372, the program realized an annual surplus of $6,059. The cost of third-party company Granicus, who largely manages the STR website, was a huge taker of the expenses; with STR staff wages the next largest expense.

It was noted that what is "on paper" is not a proper reflection of their total delivery costs because of how their accounting system is set up. Other indirect related expenses were generated through the program, such as shoreline road closure applications, and building change permits, further increasing costs in other areas.

Angela Lewis wanted to clarify that "Highlands East has not cost the tax payers a dime, and is holding its own."

Ryall indicated that in a nutshell, it seems they have broken even; he is alright with that as long as "no one is getting gouged." Ryall noted that Granicus is the biggest expense, and suggested they look at an alternate source, "To see if there is anyone else who can do this job in a better way."

Council noted that Granicus brings pros and cons to the table. They will be discussing this further in later summer, prior to budget discussions. The Granicus contract will be expiring at the end of March of 2027, was also noted.

Council accepted the STR report and council directs staff to bring back the bylaw with amendments for

see HIGHLANDS EAST page 5

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Highlands East building permits down,

from page 4

council to review once again.

Building permits still down compared to last year

Colin McKnight of the building department presented the monthly building permit update and reported that numbers for the current year are still down from last year.

Other building departments across the county are seeing similar numbers, said McKnight.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall seemed optimistic upon noticing the numbers were up about 50 per cent from the previous report.

McKnight indicated that "some experts in the building industry are forecasting that people are starting to build again," however, he remains hesitant to forecast any definitive predictions of growth at this time, as things remain "hit and miss" across the county.

To date, Highlands East council has issued 37 building permits compared to annual total of 48 building permits issued in 2025.

Proposed dog bylaw update

Bylaw officer Wayne Galloway presented council with the final draft of the dog bylaw.

Key amendments are the introduction of the proposed administrative penalties. Additional authorities under the act were provided and additional definitions added for "dangerous dog." Class 1 and Class 2 kennels were more clearly defined, and muzzle orders were added to increase the effectiveness of the bylaw.

Councillor Angela Lewis had questions about the "aggressive dog" situation and how it pertains to respective responsibilities between OPP and the bylaw officers, in the instances of dog attacks.

Councillor Cam McKenzie previously brought the issue up at the police board in Bancroft. Galloway attested that the previous detachment commander said any attack would be looked after by the OPP.

Galloway noted the dog owner liability act is a provincial statute and should be looked after by the OPP, but, "until the police boards decide what they will do," he cannot give a conclusive answer.

Most penalties will be between $150 to $250 with a dog license costing $10, said Galloway.

The bylaw update was submitted for information purposes only with no amendments. Council directed the bylaw to be forwarded to the municipal solicitor for review prior to passage at a future meeting as amended.

Bring your own alcohol update

Property Supervisor Jim Alden presented the Bring Your Own Alcohol report. Council accepted staff recommendations and ruled they will not permit the public to bring their own alcohol onto municipal green spaces.

This decision is due to the risk associated with alcohol-events and challenges of managing the public without enough staff.

The decision will not affect community centres, professional or semi-professional, or post-secondary sporting events with permits.

Fraud reports decrease after OPP info session

Councillor McKenzie reported to council that Ontario Provincial Police Bancroft Detachment "changed" detachment commander. Staff Sergeant Pitts is the new detachments commander for Bancroft.

The Bancroft attachment provided three anti-fraud information sessions to the public, two in the fall and one in the spring. They were all well attended.

Councillor McKenzie noted that reports of fraud were down 40 per cent directly after the public OPP information sessions in the Bancroft detachment.

He reminded people if they get a phone call that does not seem right, do not engage with it.

Renaming of the park after the Mackenzie Battle

Mayor Burton would like to look at renaming the municipal park area in Cardiff after the Mackenzie Battle. Council will have that discussion in the next regular meeting of council on July 14 at 9:30 a.m.

People are reminded to reach out to their local councillors with questions and concerns. People are encouraged to attend monthly meetings in person or easily tune into the livestream on the Highlands East Youtube channel and view past meetings.

Downtown sculpture on receiving end of hit

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

An unfortunate situation has occurred following the installation of the Downtown Sculpture Exhibition on June 18.

One of the pieces, titled "Choose Life, Choose Love", created by artist Angela Burdon was destroyed on Sunday, June 21.

Located outside Fiore Verde at the exit of Foodland, the individual responsible for the damage has been identified via cameras outside the location, and has been shared with local police.

"It's just so disappointing," said Barb Bolin, a board member for the Sculpture Forest. "In all our years of doing this, this has never happened before."

Unfortunately the damage is beyond repair , with a backpack used to smash the bronzed winterstone piece. Currently, the podium which housed the piece sits empty, but Bolin is hopeful another piece will fill the space shortly.

One of the questions around the damage is the issue of insurance. "Public art is very difficult to insure," explained Bolin. "So we need to know who's going to be paying for this piece."

Bolin explained that others in the community are voicing their feelings over the vandalism. "I had two people approach me yesterday to tell me how disappointed they were," she said.

The piece was one of eight sculptures located around the downtown core of Haliburton. The display is an extension of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, which draws thousands to the destination each year. The downtown sculptures were scheduled to stay up until October of this year, and were supported in collaboration with the Haliburton BIA and the Sculpture Forest committee.

"It's so unfortunate," said Bolin. "All that time and energy to create a beautiful sculpture. This has never happened before, and I hope it will never, ever happen again."

The sculpture "Choose Life, Choose Love"by Angela Burdon was vandalized late last week. Pictured is the piece prior to vandalism. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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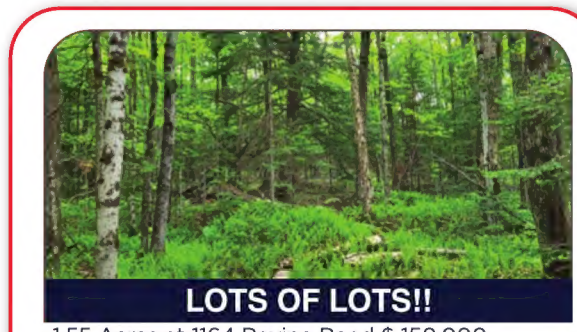
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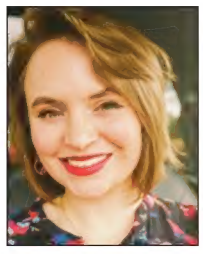
The buzz on housing

I AM GOING to say something that I doubt will win me many friends: I think we need to slow down on housing.

Whoa whoa, keep reading. I promise I will explain this.

To begin, I adamantly, wholly believe that housing is a human right. That every individual - regardless of background or financial status - is deserving of a roof over their head. Full stop.

But that said, as someone who has waded many waters in this community, I think the term "housing" has become a bit of a buzz word.



Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

Something that often bugged organizations and committees I've been a part of in the past, was my dedication to using proper language. We say we need housing, sure, but there are countless homes on the market that haven't moved for months, even years.

A number of dorm units in the newly-built college residence are sitting empty. Landlords are advertising in newspapers and online, unable to find suitable candidates to rent their spaces to.

The housing seems to exist.

Okay, so let's whittle it down. Maybe we don't need housing, maybe we need affordable housing.

And what does affordable look like? According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "affordable" housing is identified as living accommodations that cost less than 30 per cent of a household's gross (before-tax) income.

So the issue doesn't really seem to be around the housing after all.

The real problem lies within the challenges of affordability.

Our costs of living are through the roof. That's no secret. We're not bringing in the same income we once did. Groceries, gas, childcare, taxes, they're all increasing.

And of course, a little inflation is expected, but with the West Wing becoming the Wild West, the future of financial stability is on the rocks.

We also have to look to our own provincial leaders.

While Ontario has the second highest minimum wage in Canada, coming in at $17.60/ hour, it doesn't come close to the required $22.20 living wage, which is the bare minimum locals need to survive.

I'm not saying we need to kibosh the efforts made for housing. But I am saying that we need to take a look at the big picture. I do believe that the brick and mortar buildings exist in our community, so when we hear the buzz word of housing, housing, housing, and watch as these walls are built, I don't believe it's necessarily addressing the problem as a whole.

The housing exists. We just need to unpack the layers around affordability.

And there are many, many layers.

Maybe it's time to take away the buzz and focus on the words. In an election year, don't just ask interested individuals whether they prioritize housing, ask them exactly how they plan on making it attainable for those in need.

Because it's not just about the buzz of the buildings. It's about laying the groundwork for a sustainable model that will benefit the greater community.

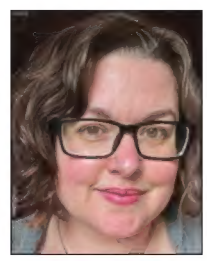
That's something worth buzzing about.

Out with the old

FOR THE last few years I've been struggling with my Kobo e-reader. I bought it in 2018 when the Clara HD model first came out because it made borrowing e-books from the library easier. But in recent years, the battery life has started to wane causing the e-reader to shut down at around 50 per cent charge – usually in the middle of some exciting part of the story I'm reading.

If I left it uncharged for too long, the e-reader would start behaving poorly. Dumping my Overdrive credentials, refusing to update, losing the wi-fi connection, or freezing entirely requiring multiple reboots or a factory reset. The resulting bother meant that the device spent more time tucked away in a drawer in favour of me reading e-books on my phone – fine for easy breezy reads but less so for denser stuff. When a hold would come in for something I wanted to read on the easy-on-the-eyes e-ink screen of my Kobo, I'd have to brace myself for the inevitable fight to get the darn thing set up again.

Humans & **Technology**



Erin Kernohan-Berning

Once things were working, they worked. As long as I was consistent about keeping it charged, my reading could continue without much interruption. So, I was hesitant to buy a new e-reader over what was mostly a battery issue. However, recently I found myself typing "best e-reader 2026" into a search engine, frustrated after my latest charge/update/reset cycle to get my latest read up and running. The e-reader market is quite small – e-ink screens are great for reading long form, but their sluggish refresh rates make them less than useful for much else.

Kobo is still on the top of the Wirecutter's picks for a non-Amazon option – the Kindle is still their top e-reader, but Amazon has never played nicely with Canadian libraries. For me, the entire point of my e-reader is borrowing e-books from our local library system (which parent company Rakuten made pretty seamless when it bought Overdrive years ago, and to the company's credit has maintained even after they sold it in 2020). So, my choice was starting to narrow on the Kobo again – maybe I could just keep my old Kobo limping along. Afterall, it's not like e-ink readers have changed that much in the last eight years – even the new model name was similar, the Clara BW.

But I did wind up clicking that add to cart button. The big reason that pushed me to finally spring for a new Kobo is that they are now fixable. This stems from the right to repair movement that has been going on for years now. For my old e-reader, swapping the battery out would be a tall order. Many consumer devices made during the time it came out were basically glued together, and replacement parts could be difficult or even impossible for consumers to purchase themselves. The process of prying apart the casing and excavating the battery, if one could be found, could easily break the unit worse than it is already broken.

Thankfully, the new models are proudly listed as having the option to repair. In 2024, Kobo partnered with iFixit so that owners of damaged or out of warranty e-readers can replace some of the parts themselves. This means from the iFixit website you can find repair guides and buy parts like screens, batteries, and even motherboards. Another eight years from now when faced with the same issue, I'll hopefully be able to replace the battery in my e-reader rather than dropping the whole thing off in the e-waste bin at my local landfill.

Even so, I was still having some buyer's remorse when my new Kobo arrived. A little voice still nagged at me that my old e-reader was still able to do its job. I found myself bracing for the inevitable sluggish setup and syncing of the new e-reader, conditioned by the last few years of having to pack my patience with the old one. I was pleasantly surprised when I breezed through setting up my new Kobo. The new model is downright snappy compared to my old one thanks to some more powerful hardware driving it, which has made some of the features easier to use. Otherwise, the reading experience I've enjoyed is the same.

We're in this transition where our old technology purchases may not be fixable, but what we buy now can be. My hope is that as the right to repair movement continues to gain momentum, that we will find more longevity in our future technology purchases than we did with some of our past technology purchases. This will give us more choice in the future whether we buy the new one or repair the old one.

points of view

You've got to know when to fold them

THE OTHER day I was attacked by a lawn chair. And, as far as I can tell, the incident was unprovoked.

The scary part is the lawn chair in question was one I thought I knew. I won't tell you we raised it from a lawn stool – because that is untrue, plus it also sounds really gross. But I will say, this particular lawn chair was very familiar to me. I had fallen asleep in it several times; I thought I could trust it.

Unfortunately, that familiarity was almost my undoing. You see I made the near-fatal mistake of forgetting all lawn chairs are, at the core, wild, ferocious and unpredictable creatures that prey on unsuspecting humans. True, we domesticated them sometime in the early '50s, but they still have a streak of the untamed within.

Even though I knew this, I let down my guard.

Like all lawn furniture attacks, this one came suddenly and with great fury. One moment, I turned my back to it, the next we were wrestling on the ground and I was trying to escape its death grip and keep those massive jaws from closing shut on my behind. After its initial lunge, we rolled around the back deck for what seemed to be several minutes with me wrestling, clawing and punching. The chair was trying its best to incapacitate me and make me spill my drink.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

Since I was alone, my cries for help went unheeded.

I know. Right now, there are probably a few do-gooders who probably think I provoked the attack. But let me just say I did not startle it or approach too quickly. My only mistakes were turning my back on it and entering into an area where lawn chairs are abundant all alone.

The fight remains a blur to me. I just remember fragments.

For instance, at one point, I tried to play dead, but then I remembered that only works on chaise lounge chairs and ottomans. So I fought back with everything I had.

I think it worked, too.

Immediately afterwards, the chair backed off. In my mind, however, it was only regrouping before coming at me for the kill.

I tried to show no fear since there were to other chairs looking on.

At that point I thought to myself, "I don't want it to end this way – not with me wearing track pants and Crocs."

Desperate, I went into autopilot and all the things I ever read about how to survive a lawn chair attack quickly came into play.

First, I outstretched my arms and made myself look bigger. Then, I began to yell things at it and threaten to replace it with a Muskoka Chair or a picnic table. And while every fibre in my being wanted to turn and run, I held my ground and in fact advanced a step. Then, I picked up some of the peanuts Jenn uses to feed chipmunks and began throwing them at the rogue chair.

We were circling each other, when Jenn opened the sliding door onto the back deck.

"Oh my goodness," she said. "What the heck happened?"

I stood amidst the overturned table and accompanying umbrella as well as the knocked down pots and pointed directly at the predatory lawn chair.

"Be careful," I said, as I heroically stepped behind her. "That lawn chair just attacked me."

I'm still not certain if the chair was intimidated by two adult humans or finally realized that I was not going to be a pushover. All I know is that its aggressive behaviour stopped and it once again tamed right down when Jenn approached, set it up, and sat in it.

Just to be sure, however, I picked up a handful of peanuts.

Jenn sat and began calmly reading a book. And I realized the chair was making a fool of me.

Needless to say, I won't take this sitting down.

pic *of the* **past**

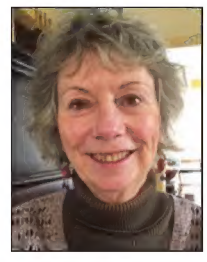
Brant Sisson, left, (holding Grey), Gord Watt, Mac Trudeau and Carl Sisson have their picture taken with their catch behind Brants house in Eagle Lake around 1944. The fish were probably caught out of Redstone Lake. /FILE

Garbage

IT WAS the smell that bothered him the most. Not the mountain. Not the harried attendant or the vehicle backup. Not even the morality of it all. It was that smell. He could imagine all that made the smell what it was. Was garbage always so odoriferous? Nick asked himself.

He remembered piling into the family car with his brothers, lumpy with bug bites and peeling sunburns, to drive twenty minutes to the neighbourhood dump. Both parents came along for the outing, their cigarette smoke mingling with the cool night dampness. There was the usual speculation about possible animal sightings on route: a rabbit scampering across the cottage road; a skunk or porcupine lumbering dangerously slow or maybe a nervous fox or deer bolting in front the car.

Down Our road



Sharon Lynch

Of course there were always bears at the dump and fools with cameras trying to get up close and personal with the large, foraging creatures. Animals weren't the only foragers either. In those days, everything went to the dump. Old coal oil lamps were tossed once people acquired hydro. Furniture and broken boats, rusty tools and containers of various shapes and sizes all eventually made their way to the big pile at the end of that little side road.

And in his childhood, Nick remembered it as a pile, not a mountain; a heap, not a pyramid of refuse that seemed to stretch far and wide, up and up until there was no more room and so another one was begun.

The treasure seekers skittered along the perimeter or, if they were really brave, roamed everywhere but always with an eye to the bears. Old pine hutches, rocking chairs and ancient watering cans, rusty and ugly but still serviceable: these were hauled over to a trunk or truck box for eventual re-purposing. Or not. Because Nick's mother sometimes speculated if these 'finds' were anything other than junk. Some people just couldn't pass up anything 'free', and so the collectors added to their overflowing garage or front yard.

There were no dump attendants in those days, no gates or cameras. Vehicles pulled up, jettisoned bags and miscellaneous onto the heap and then either left or sat and waited to catch a glimpse of a bear or three. A bonus would be cub sightings though these often could be seen waiting in a nearby tree, uncertain about the headlights and people. It was the Wild West of garbage disposal.

And when someone decided there was no more garbage space, the mess was buried and a new location found. Nick wondered if anyone questioned what was under all that dirt. But then people didn't think about issues like pollution, recycling and individual responsibility. Those were simpler times. Now we have mountains of stink despite all the efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

A neighbour has an old homestead dump sight at the back of her property. Wavy glass jars and lamp chimneys turn up every so often as Mother Earth pushes them away. But the smell is long gone.

HHLT wants you to help us name their new nature reserve

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust recently acquired a beautiful 200-acre nature reserve on Plantation Road between Minden and Carnarvon. We can't think of a better first step than giving it a great name, and we're putting that exercise in the hands of the people who will soon be able to enjoy it. On July 1, we are kicking off a county-wide naming contest. To avoid a Boaty McBoatface situation (funny as that might be), rather than a public poll, we have selected a panel of seven judges drawn from land trust staff and board members as well as community members to decide on the winning name.

As with any good contest there are prizes and the winner, in addition to having their property name formally adopted, will win a $500 gift card to Delancey Sports. There are also prizes for the runners up including a $250 gift card for Algonquin Outfitters for second place, a G20 drill set from Emmerson Lumber for third place (estimated value $150) and a Keter Samoa Deck box from Minden Canadian Tire for fourth place (Estimated value $90).

Starting at 9 a.m. on July 1, submissions can be entered through the HHLT website via the contest webpage or by scanning the QR code and filling out the form. Up to three names can be shared and only one submission can be sent in per person. You may also submit your reasoning for each name you enter. Names can be submitted until July 25 at 9 p.m.. The winners will be revealed on Aug. 8.

Our new nature reserve will be open to the public and feature an extensive trail system that includes a large boardwalk. Given there aren't many public natural spaces between Minden and Carnarvon with trails exclusively for walking and biking, we are hoping this new property will be a peaceful place for people to enjoy year-round. The nature of the property makes it quite accessible for a wide variety of walkers; the front fifth of the reserve is open field and plantation forest on flat terrain, with only a slight slope to access the boardwalk. The back half of the property is hillier and dominated by lovely mature hardwood forest and dotted with wetlands. The wetlands are particularly beautiful in the springtime as a large amount of pink lady's slipper decorate the forest in early June.

The Land Trust would like to say thank you very, very much to Delancey Sport, Algonquin Outfitters, Emmerson Lumber and Minden Canadian Tire for generously donating prizes to the contest. We hope every nature lover in the county will soon be enjoying the newly named haven!

Submitted by Nick Weissflog
Land Stewardship Manager for the Haliburton Highlands

OPP charge AH resident following series of break and enters in the Highlands

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has charged one individual in connection with a series of break and enters and theft-related incidents in the Haliburton Highlands area.

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment, with assistance from the Central Region Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU) and the Offender Management and Apprehension Program (OMAP), began investigating multiple reports of break and enters, thefts, suspicious persons, and stolen vehicle occurrences throughout May and June 2026.

On Wednesday, June 24, officers located and arrested a 34-year old from Algonquin Highlands, and charged the accused with these following offences:

- Theft under $5,000 - three counts
- Possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000 - three counts
- Possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000
- Break and enter to a dwelling - two counts
- Operation while prohibited - two counts
- Fail to comply with probation

During the investigation, officers recovered stolen property, including personal items, stolen licence plates, and a side-by-side vehicle valued at approximately $30,000.

The accused remains in custody and is scheduled to appear for a bail hearing before the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay on Friday, June 26, 2026.

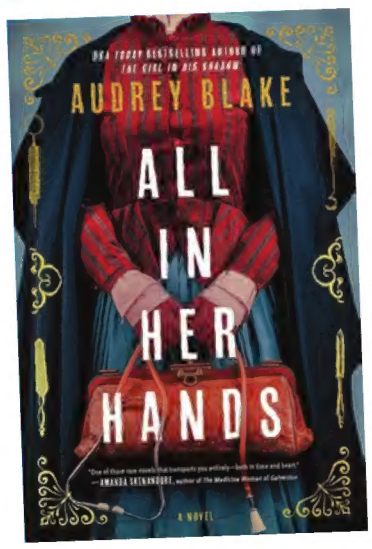
The OPP reminds residents to report suspicious activity promptly and to ensure homes and vehicles are secured. Community information continues to play a critical role in police investigations.

This investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Submitted

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



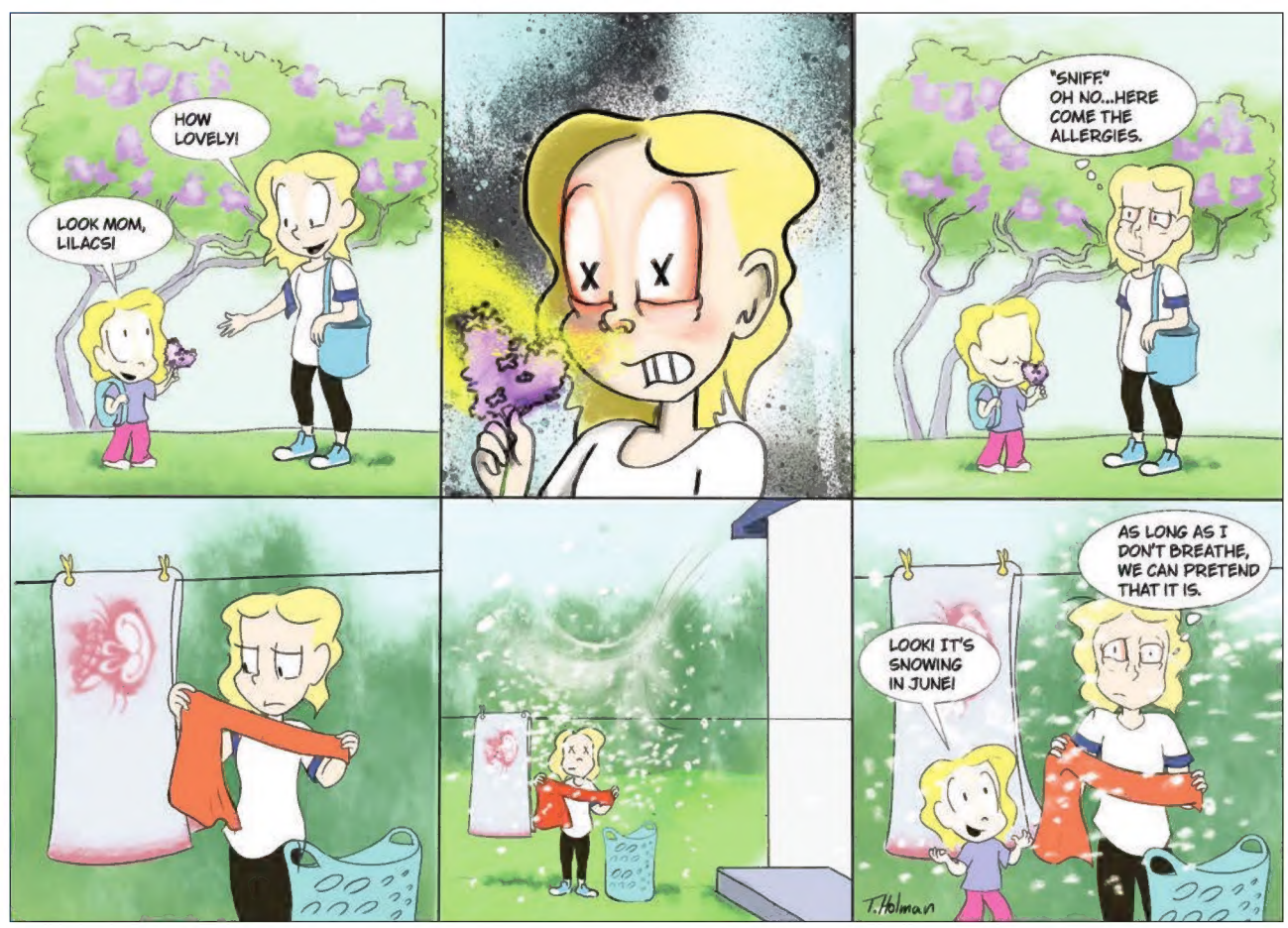
In 1849, Dr. Nora Gibson is the only female surgeon in London, having fought through prejudice to earn her place at Great Queen Street Hospital.

But Nora's hard-won career comes under threat when she advocates for midwives to be recognized within the medical profession, drawing criticism from colleagues and society alike. At the same time, a devastating cholera epidemic sweeps through London, overwhelming the city and hitting the working classes hardest.

As the disease spreads and those around her begin to fall, Nora must find the strength to keep fighting in a world eager to see her fail.

All in Her Hands by Audrey Blake is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

HALIWOOD NORTH


HOW LOVELY!
LOOK MOM, LILACS!
"SNIFF." OH NO...HERE COME THE ALLERGIES.
AS LONG AS I DON'T BREATHE, WE CAN PRETEND THAT IT IS.
LOOK! IT'S SNOWING IN JUNE!
T.Holman

All roads lead to Avonlea

The Highlands Summer Festival officially kicked off their season on Monday, June 29 with the opening of *Anne of Green Gables the Musical*. The show features performers of all ages, and has committed to the original story of everyone's favourite Anne with an 'e'. Running until July 8 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, tickets can be purchased online at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca of by calling 705-457-9933 /TIM YANO staff photographer

AH questions council Zoom attendance

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many changes to municipal structure and procedures, with one advantageous technology used during this time being virtual conference services such as Zoom.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux brought the conversation of allowing a council member to attend Algonquin Highlands council remotely to their council meeting held on Thursday, June 18.

CAO Angie Bird said that the bylaw currently allows for the mayor to approve of someone attending council virtually.

"One of the things that Deputy Mayor Dailloux suggested was that it was a matter of discriminating against cottagers," said AH Mayor Liz Danielsen. "It would appear that the province prefers in-person meetings."

She said that the only consideration for it to be discriminatory is when someone with a disability was not provided the right to attend virtually.

"I think that the taxpayers want to know that their representation is local, accessible, here if they need them," she said.

Councillors Sabrina Richards and Julia Shortreed both said that the decision should fall to the newly elected council.

Richards noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, council was effective when everyone was forced to attend council virtually. Notably Richards attended the June 18 meeting remotely.

"There is something to be said about relationships amongst council," said Richards.

Danielsen says that there was equality during the pandemic, as everyone was forced to attend council virtually.

"I do think it would be advantageous to have a non-fulltime resident on council," said Councillor Lisa Barry. "I do feel that our existing procedural bylaw does not eliminate the ability that they can still run for council."

She says that the newly elected council member would need to put in the effort to attend in person, and receive permission by the mayor to attend virtually when needed.

"I am not in support of making a change," said Barry.

Danielsen expressed concerns for a difficult situation in allowing someone to attend council virtually, then the next council removing that bylaw, bringing issues for their attendance.

Richards asked that if a non-resident is elected, what happens with the council's paid mileage. Currently, the bylaw allows for mileage to be paid only within the county's boundary.

"They would not be able to claim from Toronto to here," said Danielsen.

Council agreed not to make changes to the bylaw, being open to the idea of a seasonal resident as a member of council.

Seconder requirement for Deputy Mayor nomination

Algonquin Highlands council also discussed how the nomination process works before the upcoming election this fall.

"I have a bit of a concern with people nominating themselves," expressed Mayor Liz Danielsen. "That seems to be accepted that that's the case. I think the question is whether there needs to be a seconder or not."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux has expressed concern that with five council members, it is difficult to get seconders for two different candidates.

"Seconding a motion is not voting on it, it is just putting it on the table," said Danielsen.

She personally believes that the deputy mayor should be elected at-large.

"I think having a seconder makes it a more thoughtful process," said Councillor Julia Shortreed.

Councilor Sabrina Richards says that she feels that someone that considers themselves worthy of the position should be able to speak for themselves without necessarily needing a seconder.

Danielsen clarified that people can be the seconder for multiple candidates.

Councillor Richards proposed the hypothetical that if there are multiple candidates vying for the position, what happens when there is no seconder.

CAO Angie Bird says that the deputy mayor position would then be decided by the mayor's vote.

Council decided to proceed with the nomination of a deputy mayor requiring a seconder.

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New Land Trust ED comes home

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

For Dave Newnham, he's always known that Haliburton was the end goal.

And for the new executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, stepping into the role with the environmental agency is a dream come true.

"I've always loved the outdoors," he said. "That's been a constant from the get-go."

As he looks back on his life, he identifies his love of nature starting when he was just a kid, attending Camp Wanakita in Haliburton. His love for the place continued, working his way up to vice president of camping and outdoor education with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario. He worked at both Wanakita and Kinark for many years, before stepping into the role of president and executive director of the Tim Hortons Children's Foundation.

The latter role had him working all over the country, but when the opportunity came up to return to his roots, Newnham jumped at the chance.

The Land Trust announced his role on June 17, with an official start date of July 6. And while there may be differences between working with camps and jumping into an executive director role with a not-for-profit, Newnham was quick to point out the overlapped skillsets. "I see a lot of similarities," he said, noting shared causes, fundraising, and environmental priorities. "A lot of these issues are common."

And through it all, woven into the very core of his being, is his love of the land. "There's nothing I love more than being on the land," he said. "And I love Haliburton so much for the community. The community is amazing."

With a passion for canoeing, hiking, and camping, Newnham is eager to explore the opportunities for the Land Trust to continue their ecological initiatives. "Comfortable in the boardroom and in the bush, Dave brings a wealth of experience to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust at an important moment," said Todd Hall, the chair for the organization. "A proven and dynamic leader, Dave has long demonstrated both a commitment to the natural world, and a great talent in connecting people – especially children – to its wonder."

The Land Trust was able to secure funding for Newnham's role, and recognizes the value of legitimizing the organization with the presence of an executive director. "As the Land Trust embarks on this next ambitious phase of its growth and service to the Haliburton community, I can't wait to work with Dave to maximize our positive impact," said Hall. "As a full-time resident of Algonquin Highlands, Dave's familiarity with the county ensures he can hit the ground running."

Dave Newnham is the new executive director for the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Newnham brings decades of experience from outdoor education to the newly-formed role. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is a not-for-profit charitable organization, focused on the conservation of the natural heritage of Haliburton County. They currently own and manage seven nature reserves, comprising more than 1,500 acres of ecologically diverse lands and waters. Two of the properties have well developed trail systems that are free and open to the public for hiking and nature appreciation.

"It's an inspiring opportunity to bring together my deep commitment to environmental stewardship, my background in leading not-for-profit organizations looking to make a real impact," said Newnham, "and my love for the incredible natural diversity and the great sense of community here in the Haliburton Highlands."

Stepping into the role, Newnham intends to prioritize transparency and accountability, while listening to the numerous volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to the existing board and committees within the Land Trust. "I look forward to meeting with our dedicated volunteers, supporters and members of the community to build on our success over the last two decades," he said, "and work together to deepen our legacy of protected lands and waters for generations to come."

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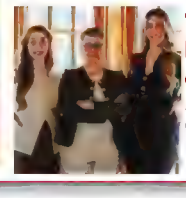

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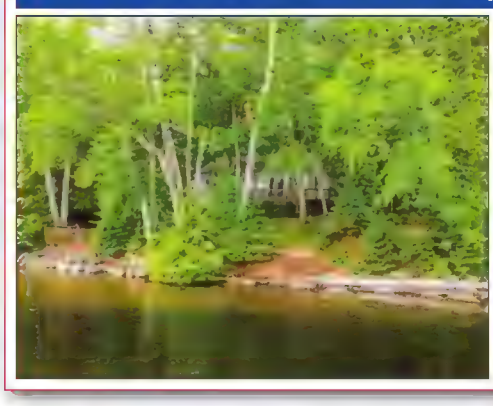

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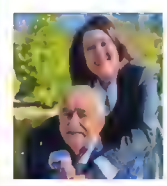

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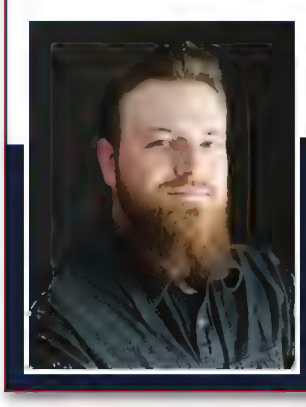

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allanfrancis@remax.net
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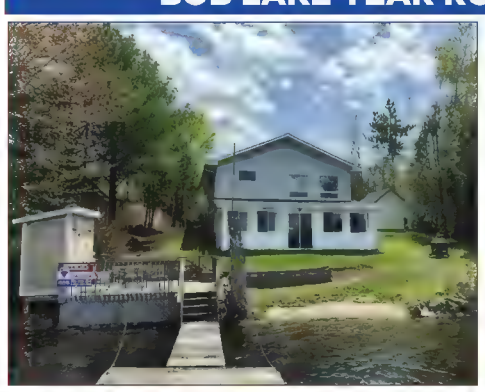

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705-457-1011

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705-286-2911

WILBERFORCE
2260 Loop Road
705-448-2222

remaxprofessionalsnorth.ca
listings@remaxprofessionals.ca

Golden Owl Festival celebrating stories

IVY KATZ

Journalist

"I have been putting a lot of energy into manifesting the gardens," said Biljana Banchotova Webb as she poured ginger tea.

Banchotova Webb is referencing the spiral garden, which will be a part of the upcoming immersive two-day event she is hosting on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12. "I call it a living garden," she explained, "we have collected from our sacred spaces and our intentions and awareness lives in the gardens."

The upcoming festival will be held at the Frog Hollow Garden Integrative Art Experience and SpiralGate of Art and Well-Being, and Whirling Wisdom Art Studio, which are nestled on her land in Tory Hill.

The SpiralGate stands for creational energy, notes Banchotova Webb, because everything in the universe is circular. "Natural laws, nature itself."

Banchotova Webb is the founder of these spaces, and runs a community initiative and not-for-profit. The space is covered with art, much of it created by her. "Art is a healing tool," she said. The festival will bring together youth with elders, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Having lived a little bit everywhere, Banchotova Webb was born in South Africa fifty years ago, July 1976. The two-day festival will mark her "golden" birthday and the "golden thread that runs through all our lives." The festival is also meant to mark this time for change; "a lot of our old systems do not serve the people, with the arts, I find a collective well being, I live in conscious awareness" she said. For her, it is also "the end of grieving;" it has been four years since the passing of her husband.

Banchotova Webb has over 25 years of experience as a sound educator, is a certified lead artist educator through the Royal Conservatory of Music, and has worked collaboratively with First Nations in arts and healing for more than two decades.

The story bench at the event is intentionally designed to connect elders with youth in a trust-worthy space.

"The Golden Owl lives here in the woods. For our culture, he is the wisdom keeper. The Owl is that thread within you that brings introspection" she said.

The two-day cultural land-based celebration on the weekend of July 11 will kick-off with a seed-bead weaving workshop (registration needed).

A Yoruba Elder and High Chief from Nigeria will be the Featured Indigenous guest, community fire, and open jam.

There will be featured storytellers, including Mark Jenkins, whose work comes from 35 years of being involved with Indigenous Elders and his own Celtic heritage.

Thomas-Martin Tegtmeyer will be give a two-hour dose of wellness teachings on boosting energy naturally.

Martin Millen, traditional First Nation Healer and children's author Kristin Groulx. Dave Laddel will be on saxophone.

There will be an "enchanted tea party in the living gardens," and at 3 p.m., there will be aerial act on the scarves, with the new outdoor aerial rig, allowing the show to be in the gardens for the first time.

"It is a dream come true for us to get the grant, all the threads are aligning for us" said Banchotova Webb on the Haliburton County Development Local Initiatives Program grant.

People are invited to drop in or stay the whole day, it is "a creative space that is safe to explore."

Registration for certain events is requested. Visit FrogHollowExperience.com for a detailed schedule and view performer and artist biographies. Register online or email FrogHollow118@gmail.com. The SpiralGate venue is located at 18378 HWY 118 in Tory Hill.

"Everything I work with is a sacred space for all people, elder and youth; this is a time for listening, that is what is needed, and involving children as a leading voice in the community," said Banchotova Webb.

There looks to be something for everyone at this versatile and family-friendly event.

Artist and event-organizer Biljana Banchotova holds one of her symbolic paintings in her Spiral Gate studio in preparation for the two-day Golden Owl Celebration set for July 11 to 12. /IVY KATZ staff

Coming in for landing

Stanhope's annual Fly-In took place this past Saturday, with sunny skies offering a perfect backdrop for all attendees and vendors at the busy day. Pictured below Brodie, Raelynn, Jacob, and Luke watch a plane land on the airport fields. (submitted by Alex Sisson) Right, Emberly Catton sitting in the cockpit of a 1941 Aeronica Chief airplane owned by Jesse Fremont of Kennisis Lake. (submitted by David Zilstra)

Report drivers that intentionally hit turtles

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

A small painted turtle peeking out of its shell. /photo by Tammy Nash

Without local support, turtle populations in Haliburton County will dwindle every year.

"Deliberate acts of wildlife cruelty appear to be increasing," said Leora Berman, the chief operating officer of the Turtle Guardians.

According to Berman, she believes that viewing the act of conservation through a political lens has weakened the support for protecting nature.

An act that has spawned posts and heated discussion is the intentional harming of turtles with motorized vehicles.

The intentional hitting of turtles and other wildlife will never be tolerated.

If you see it happen, you have the duty to report it.

"While these incidents remain the exception rather than the norm, we are concerned that deliberate wildlife cruelty can sometimes influence others if it is ignored or tolerated," said Berman. "That is why it is important for communities to speak clearly in support of respect for wildlife and to report deliberate acts when they occur."

Killing a turtle in Ontario is a serious offence. A first offence against a protected turtle species can carry penalties of up to $25,000 and/or a year of imprisonment.

With the Turtle Guardians, fewer and fewer young turtles have been spotted this year. With less young turtles, there have also been fewer older adults.

The backbone of our local turtle populations, the larger, older turtles, are established breeders that contribute back to the turtle population. It takes decades for turtles to mature and regenerate their own kind.

"This gradual loss of both breeders and newcomers represents an erosion of nature's ability to renew itself," said Berman.

In Ontario, the spiny softshell turtle along the Thames River in southwestern Ontario was considered close to being locally extinct, with few young turtles surviving to grow into the breeding population. The Southern Ontario At Risk Reptiles program was established through the guidance of Scott Gillingwater to create a recovery strategy to protect adult turtles, incubate eggs, and release hatchlings back into the ecosystem.

"They worked to ensure that both today's breeders and tomorrow's breeders survived," said Berman.

It took 16 years before the first protected hatchlings returned as breeding adults. Berman says that the program has been successful, with their local spiny softshell turtle population containing hatchlings, juveniles, and mature breeding adults, indicating that restoration has begun and the population is slowly recovering.

Following the success of this model, the Turtle Guardians have been leading the protection of turtles in Haliburton and beyond for the past ten years. Their practice protects turtles through road patrols, emergency response, protecting nests, and incubating eggs to increase hatchling's success rate.

"Recovery takes patience," said Berman.

Berman says that they expect it to take another decade before seeing telltale signs of Haliburton's turtle population regenerating.

Opposing forces to the protection of turtles includes the surging demand for residential development, increasing traffic volumes, and driver's aggression.

"Each year we see not only turtles, but bears, deer, and many other wildlife species killed on our roads. We see moose displaced and on roads as well," said Berman. "These concerns have become significant enough that the Ministry of Natural Resources, the OPP, municipalities, and conservation organizations are working together to address the growing rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions."

In the current discussions of amalgamation, one common theme that has come up again and again, is that nature and local wildlife is one of the most desired features of the Haliburton Highlands.

"Love them or hate them, people feel a lot about the turtles, and we hope that through sustained action, children growing up in Haliburton decades from now will still have the opportunity to encounter turtles and respond to them, muse at their likeness to dinosaurs, and benefit from their role in our fisheries and waters," said Berman.

If you see a vehicle intentionally swerving to drive over turtles, or failing to avoid one when it is clearly safe to do so, report the vehicle's make, model, colour, and if possible, license plate number. Any information on the time, location, and description of the driver can help the Ministry implement patrols in areas where this is occurring. Report the incident to the Ministry of Natural Resources TIPS line by calling 1-877-847-7667.

> ***"Each year we see not only turtles, but bears, deer, and many other wildlife species killed on our roads."***
>
> — Leora Berman, Turtle Guardians

Above all, never put yourself at risk.

As of the publication of this article, there are two cases of intentional harm towards turtles that will see prosecution from civilian reporting to the MNR.

Community reporting is one of the strongest ways to protect vulnerable species and deter crime against wildlife.

Turtles may be on our roads until the end of July. If you see a turtle on the road, make sure that it is not nesting. Watch the turtle to see if it turns around towards the water to lay its eggs. If it does not appear to be nesting, you can safely help it across the road. The Turtle Guardians' helpline can be texted or called at 705-854-2888.

If you come across a turtle that is injured, never leave it to suffer. Never try to relocate a turtle to another waterbody.

While a turtle's shell seems like armour, the turtle can feel damage done to it. After surviving for hundreds of millions of years, turtles are amazingly hardy and can survive from the most terrible of injuries.

Note the location of the injured turtle and ensure your safety and the safety of other drivers before attempting to help. When it is safe to do so, collect the turtle in either a box or put them on your car's floormat. Never offer the turtle food or water. Text the Turtle Guardians helpline or contact the Turtle Hospital at 705-741-5000.

Volunteers can often meet you to bring assistance to the turtle, or will direct you on where to bring the turtle for it to receive care.

135 Maple Ave., Haliburton
Tel: (705) 457-1740 ext. 659
www.dysartetal.ca

Public Notice

The Municipality of Dysart will pause the acceptance of construction and demolition materials from the West Guilford waste disposal site for approximately 12 weeks while we complete some required work on site. Operating hours at the Haliburton waste disposal site will be 6 days per week, Tuesday to Sunday effective July 3rd. For updates please visit our website dysartetal.ca, our waste wizard app or one of our social media channels.

Municipality of Dysart et al
Tenders

The Municipality of Dysart et al invites vendors to submit for the following:

CLOSING JULY 7th, 2026

- **2026-PW-15 Sewer Flushing, Cleaning and CCTV Inspections**

Register at no cost, view all bid opportunities, and submit your bid online at:

dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca
Printed or emailed submissions are not accepted

Review our "how-to" guide at:
dysartetal.ca/municipal-government/bids-and-tenders

Municipality of Dysart et al
705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca

Ski-Mazing ventures into eFoils

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Aaron Walker of NUEFOIL shows how to ride an eFoil on 12 Mile Lake. Walker visited Craig Bowker's Ski-Mazing to train their staff to offer eFoil lessons this summer. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Imagine a surf board that you can take anywhere, even without a wave to catch.

On Saturday, June 20, I was extended an invitation from Ski-Mazing to take photos of a skilled electric hydrofoiler (also known as an eFoil) visiting Minden Hills.

Craig Bowker, owner of Ski-Mazing, was having Aaron Walker of NUEFOIL visit from Vancouver Island to 12 Mile Lake to teach his staff the ins and outs of eFoiling.

Now you may ask yourself, what is an eFoil?

Unlike a traditional surfboard, hydrofoils were created to use either a motor or windsurfing technology to ride on top of water. Electric hydrofoils, or eFoils, use an electric motor to get you moving.

Envision someone riding on a surfboard, but instead of the wind or waves propelling you, you can control your own speed with an engine, while being lifted out of the water by the hydrofoil underneath.

"Do you want to try it yourself?" asked Bowker.

Now valued readers, for some background, I have never skateboarded in my life, nor have I ever gone surfing.

Yet, with the opportunity to try a new sport being thrown in my lap, I enthusiastically agreed.

For context, I have the same balance as a newborn deer.

However, I have gone tubing and thrown across the lake, so I am no stranger to falling in the water.

Known internationally as a recognized water skier, I knew that I was under the right guidance to experience a watersport for the first time in my life.

Travelling to Ski-Mazing's base of operation at 9 Taylor Road, near the Twin Lakes Resort was simple to get to. The Ski-Mazing team was nothing short of hospitable in welcoming me on their dock, checking in with me, and making sure I felt safe and comfortable every step of the process.

Under Walker's instruction, I climbed from the dock on the eFoil.

And immediately slipped off into the drink, clambered back on the dock and went to try to get on again.

Quickly, I learned not to fight the board. Walker says that the sensation is foreign to many people, and while the board feels like it is tipping, trying to counterbalance makes it harder to stay stable.

It might have been my nerves, but it felt like I was bear hugging the board. Hey, at least I stayed on the thing.

Squeezing the speed gauge, I pushed away from the dock.

Getting a hand of speeding up and leaning to steer it did not take long.

Soon enough, it felt like I was flying above 12 Mile Lake. I remained on my knees (remember, baby deer), but it was still a blast.

Walker, a resident of Vancouver Island, says that he regularly takes his eFoil out spearfishing. With NUEFOIL's eFoil being inflatable, it is easily transportable and cheaper.

Alongside Ski-Mazing staff, Walker was able to get all of us flying across the lake in a short time. This summer, Bowker will offer eFoiling as an option with Ski-Mazing. Fortunately for you, eFoiling will be part of a two-hour session.

While hydrofoiling is not a new invention, there have been tremendous strides in creating an eFoil that is both affordable and transportable.

On the West Coast, eFoiling has become a very popular watersport activity. Yet in Ontario, eFoiling is rarely seen.

That is something that Bowker hopes to change. Together with NUEFOIL, Bowker hopes the popularity of eFoiling spreads.

Walker says that there was interest from his company to bring eFoiling to cottage country to increase awareness of the sport and showcase a Canadian-made brand.

Trying eFoiling was an amazing opportunity to experience a watersport that I have never heard of before.

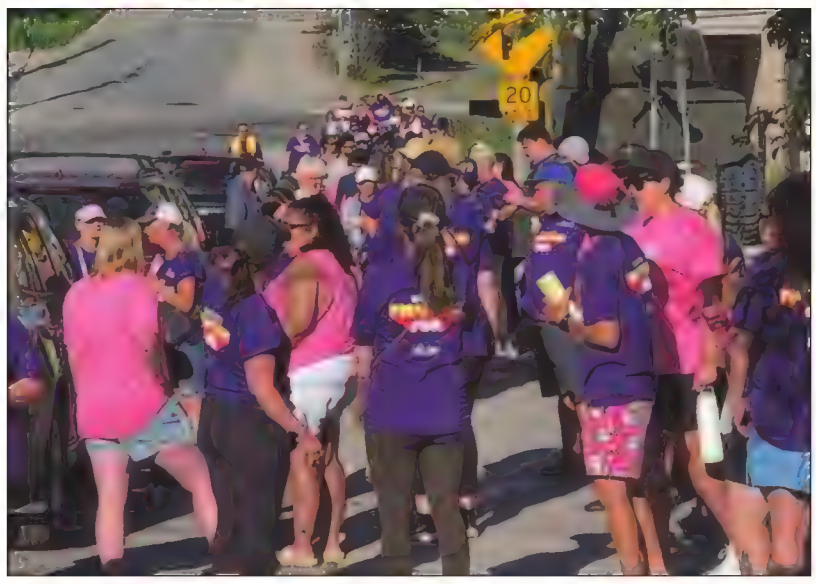
Using my body to steer and hold to the eFoil pushed my core, arms, and chest, making eFoiling both fun and a good workout.

Sessions to try eFoiling can be booked through Ski-Mazing's website ski-mazing.com or you can call 705-455-7697.

Thank you to Craig Bowker, Aaron Walker and the Ski-Mazing team for the opportunity to try eFoiling.

Scott and Schmale visit Haliburton

MPP Laurie Scott and MP Jamie Schmale hosted Senior Seminars last Wednesday, June 24 at the Haliburton Legion. Alongside a series of presentations and talks, a number of local organizations dedicated to seniors programming were able to offer information and answer questions, including Aging Together As Community. While the presentations continued inside, Community Living unionized staff held a rally outside the building, trying to get the attention of Scott and Schmale for their month-long strike. The organizers did not come face to face with either political lead. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



Chop Shop nonstop on top in Haiburton

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Owners of the Chop Shop, Janet and Chris Wellstood, are applying their experience and skillsets to their new shop on Industrial Park Road. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Chris and Janet Wellstood are taking martial arts in Haliburton to the next level.

"My namesake is from Kinmount, that is where my grandfather was born," said Chris.

The couple met at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Chris' family moved there when he was a teenager. For Janet, she grew up on a 200 acre farm just off of Mountain Street in Haliburton.

"He ended up going to the same college that I went to," said Janet. "Then we ended up being roommates."

"Just roommates," she says with a laugh. "We went other directions, then met back in 2008."

Chris' interest in martial arts formed at the beginning of his college years with a coworker introducing him to UFC and martial arts.

Later in life, he got a job with Queen's University, and moved to Kingston in 1998. It was in Kingston when he took up karate and muay thai to make new friends.

Training for many years in muay thai, Chris was introduced to Brazilian jiu jitsu around 2001 and became enamoured with its practicality in self defence.

"It is such an awesome martial art," said Chris. "I started focusing on it."

Immersed in the martial arts scene, Chris notes that there was a paradigm shift in the 2000s with the exploding popularity of UFC.

For some gyms, they recognized the popularity and practicality of UFC's skills for self defence. Many gyms adapted to the craze by offering more jiu jitsu and combat influenced martial arts.

Later running his own martial arts gym, he asked Janet to work with him in Kingston.

"I didn't have any interest at first," said Janet.

Encouraged to give Brazilian jiu jitsu a shot by Chris, she says it took a while to get into practicing the martial arts herself. A natural runner and hockey player, the change towards a martial art came easier with fitness kickboxing.

"I took a liking to fitness kickboxing," said Janet. "I liked that it was a cardio workout and it was exercise, but it was different ... It was very empowering," she said.

With Brazilian jiu jitsu naturally involving grapelling, Janet says that she feels empowered through increasing her abilities of self defence, and getting in a good workout while practicing.

"The biggest break in training I had was covid," said Chris.

"I love to continually learn," he said. "Brazilian jiu jitsu is a very cerebral sport."

While grapelling with another person, you are constantly making choices and problem solving, he says.

The nature of Brazilian jiu jitsu also allows it to be practiced by anyone of any age.

Chris describes the motions as being very controlled, and there is a flow to sparring that is not as hard on the body as other sports.

"We have had all different ages, men, women, and people of all different sizes and shapes," said Chris.

"We will meet you where you are at," assures Janet.

Having experience running their own martial art studio in Kingston, the Wellstoods are well equipped with knowledge to run their studio in Haliburton.

Wanting to be closer to family, they made the move in 2025 and opened their doors this year on May 30.

Since returning, Janet says that she is impressed by how Haliburton has progressed since she was a kid. She could have never imagined that a martial arts studio would be able to survive in Haliburton.

"The only thing missing for us was our training," said Janet. "We have developed a way that we do things. We had over 370 students at our last gym. We have a good formula."

Janet says that the couple's passion for martial arts allows them to remain flexible and keep strength needed as they grow older.

"We want our gym to have a fun, relaxed atmosphere," said Janet.

Lucky for participants, Chris and Janet regularly train and spar alongside their clients, and take the time to get to know them and see how they are progressing.

"The customers are always right," said Chris. "We are lucky to have them here and are here to try and be the best part of their day."

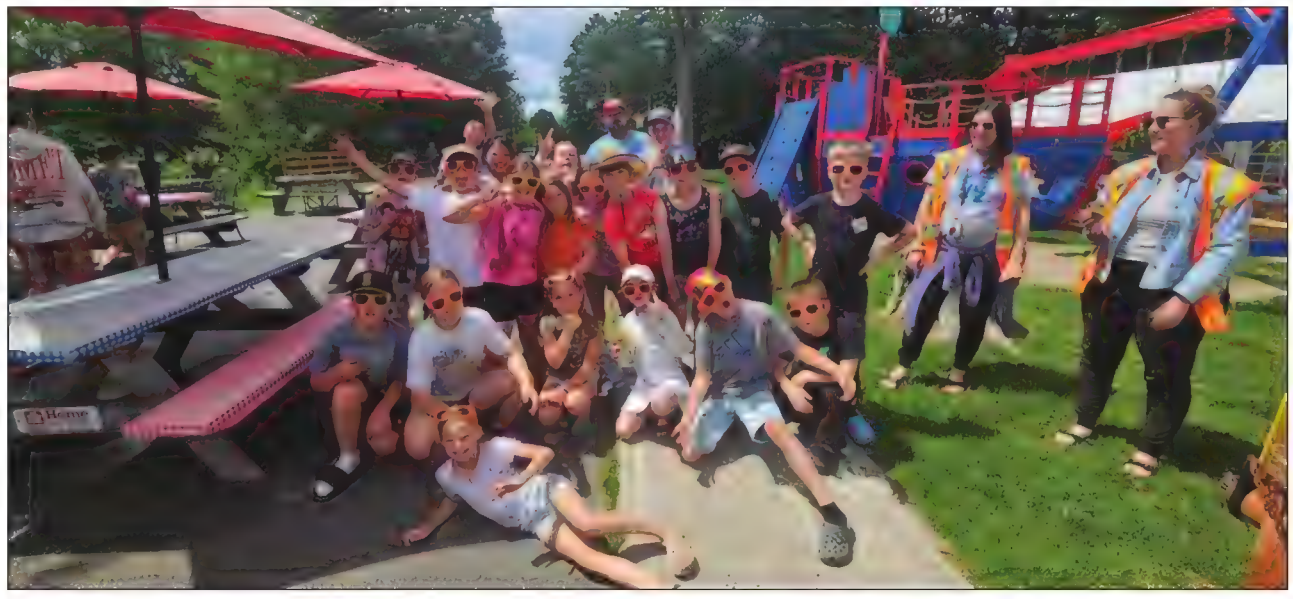
The Chop Shop's location at 175 Industrial Park Road is beneficial being a busy road towards the transfer station, as well as having ample parking.

The Chop Shop offers annual memberships, fitness kickboxing, and Brazilian jiu jitsu classes. There is also a discount for families wanting an annual membership.

Since opening, the Wellstoods say that they have garnered a fantastic crowd of dedicated trainees, surpassing their expectations.

Always open to new training partners, they say that their doors are open to take up the mantle in training.

If you are interested in visiting, please check out their website www.thechopshop.ca or call the Wellstoods at 705-854-3773.



Moose tracks

The Minden Moose visited the River Cone last Wednesday, when an anonymous donor purchased enough ice cream to offer to the entire staff and student population of Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Classes took turns to visit the Minden hub to collect their cones, and spend time with friends. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Minden staff credit cards up for debate

from page 1

McKelvey, noting that Dysart and the County have a maximum of $5,000.

"It is getting more and more difficult to go to somebody and pay them by any other means other than electronic," said Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter. "I don't see there [being a] huge risk with this $10,000 limit."

He said that there would be a financial report every month to review what has been purchased.

Drinkwalter expressed his dismay for multiple credit cards with a municipality, he says that creating accounts and paying invoices is easier from a bookkeeping standpoint.

OCWA contract renewal

Minden Hills has now signed a renewed five year contract with the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The renewal price is $665,579 meaning a monthly paid instalment of $55,481.60.

This price will increase every year with a CPI adjustment and an adjustment for maintaining the insurance.

This means that there has been an increase of $30,317 from the previous five year contract. This has been accounted for in the current budget and no changes to the budget are required.

www.mindenhills.ca
In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours
Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Celebrate Canada Day at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Activities taking place from 10 am – 2 pm: Air Bounce Inflatables, FREE ice cream sponsored by Kawartha Dairy from 12-1 pm (while supplies last), Pockets the Clown facepainting, and children's games and activities. New this year is "Conundrum" – an interactive musical instrument created by visual artist David Hynes. It is made by stretching and lacing cowhide/rawhide over the hull of a 16-foot cedar-strip canoe, transforming the boat into a massive, multi-player kettle drum.
- The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands will be on display until July 18.
- Museum of Her, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18.
- Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit will be on display at the MHCC until August 29.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discovery Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:
• RFT No. CSD 26-01 Backup Generator for S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
Closing date: July 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
• RFP No. RDS 26-003 Minden Sidewalk Improvements
Closing date: July 10, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Summer is here! Check out the programs that the SG Nesbitt Arena has going on this summer either online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the Administration Desk.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste July 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena. Please ensure you have your waste disposal card. Residents can attend any hazardous waste event in the County. For a full list of events happening within the County, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

CANADA DAY

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 to celebrate Canada Day.
• Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
• Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
The Minden Hills Cultural Centre and S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be open with a variety of activities. All waste disposal sites will operate on regular hours.

Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Thursday, July 2, 2026.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

July 23 – Regular Council Meeting
August 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

Summer programs launch at Minden Hills Cultural Centre

The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place offers new and returning drop-in programming activities and events throughout July. All programs take place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.. Pre-registration is not required, and admission is by donation. The programs are best suited for ages five to 12.

New this year!

Portable Memories Showcase: Explore fascinating artifacts from Minden Hills' past through our Portable Memories collection. Each showcase features a different selection of objects and photographs, offering new opportunities to discover local history and share stories. Dates: July 3, 18, 28.

Paper Origami Bird: Learn about local bird species and the sounds they make while creating your own colourful origami bird. A fun blend of nature exploration and creative crafting. Date: July 4.

Wildlife Pointillism Art: Create a wildlife-themed masterpiece using the pointillism technique, where hundreds of small dots come together to form an image. Date: July 8.

Salt Painting: Experiment with salt and paint to create vibrant works of art with unique textures and effects. Date: July 10.

Miniature Croquet Stick: Create your own miniature croquet stick while learning about one of the popular lawn games enjoyed by families during the Victorian era. Date: July 11.

School Slates Craft: Step back into the days of one-room schoolhouses by creating your own school slate using paper and chalk. Discover how students learned before notebooks became common. Date: July 14.

Master Gardeners Drop-In Program: Learn from members of the Haliburton County Master Gardeners for a hands-on activity exploring plants and the natural world. Date: July 16.

Old-Fashioned Portrait Making: Create a black-and-white self-portrait using pencil sketching and shading techniques. Participants will design and decorate a frame inspired by historic portrait photographs. Date: July 21.

Paint the Past: Take inspiration from one of our historic buildings on site and create your own painting. Whether simple or detailed, participants can try their hand at capturing the building in their own artistic style. Date: July 23.

ATIP Drop-In: Learn from a representative of the Apple Tree Identificaiton Project (ATIP) and discover the heritage apple trees found throughout Haliburton County. Date: July 24.

Felt Woven Baskets: Learn basic weaving techniques while creating a colourful basket using felt strips. Discover how weaving has been used throughout history to create useful everyday objects. Date: July 30.

Pipe Cleaner Flowers: Create bright and colourful flowers using pipe cleaners while learning about different flower shapes and designs found in nature. Date: July 31.

Rag Quilt: Create a small rag quilt craft inspired by a traditional quilting technique that helped families reuse and repurpose fabric scraps. Date: August 1.

Returning Programs

Cardboard Loom: Create your own cardboard loom and learn the basics of weaving.

Participants will explore a traditional textile craft while creating a colourful woven project to take home. Date: July 2.

Paper Quilling: Discover the art of paper quilling by rolling and shaping strips of paper into decorative designs. Participants will create a unique piece of artwork inspired by this traditional craft technique. Date: July 7.

Early Settler Baking: Join us in the Bowron House's kitchen for a demonstration of traditional early settler baking techniques and taste the authentic flavors of recipes from the early days. Date: July 9.

Salt Dough Clay Leaf Press: Use leaves and natural materials to create beautiful impressions in homemade salt dough clay. Participants will make a keepsake inspired by the plants and trees found around us. Date: July 15.

Ice Cream Making: Discover how ice cream was made before modern freezers and help create a delicious frozen treat using traditional methods. Date: July 17.

Butter Making: Learn how butter was traditionally made on the farm and help churn cream into butter the old-fashioned way. Date: July 22.

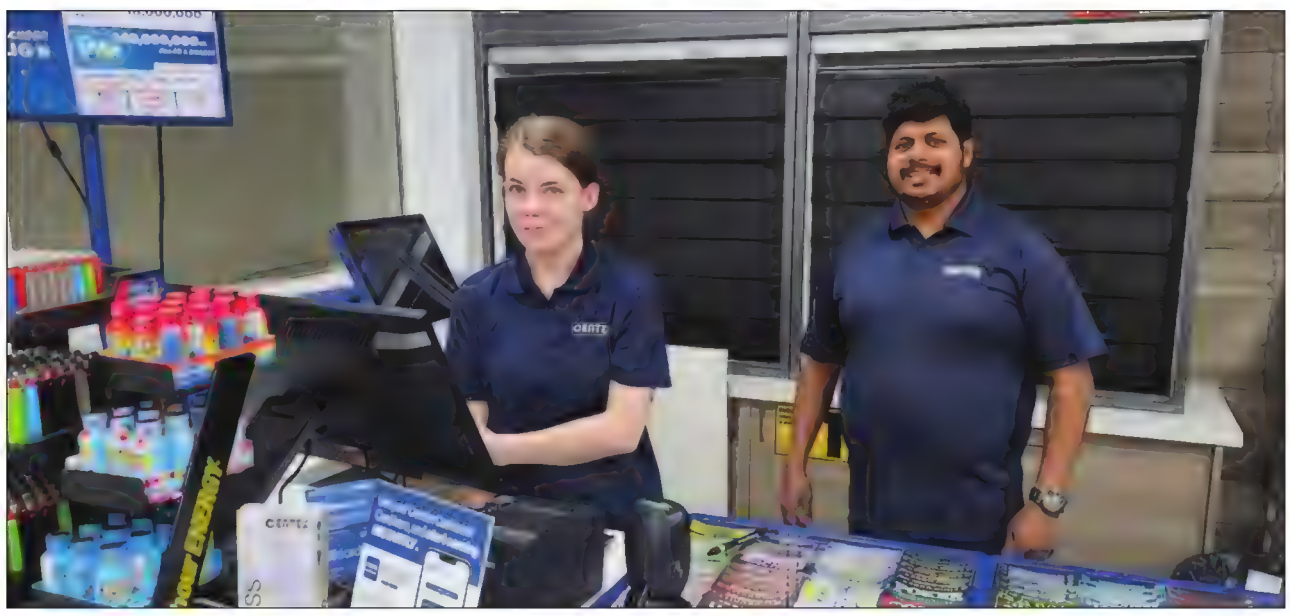
Tissue Paper Stained Glass: Create a colourful stained-glass-inspired artwork using tissue paper and simple craft materials. Explore how artists use light and colour to create striking visual effects. Date: July 25.

Oobleck Slime: Mix up a strange substance that behaves like both a liquid and a solid while exploring the science behind non-Newtonian fluids. Date: July 29.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, Ontario and is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please visit our Cultural Centre's social media for more info.: www.facebook.com/mindenculturalcentre.

Submitted

Let The Word Out
Let people know about your event. Send it to us for FREE community events listing in County Life. Email the basics to:



Welcome to town

The long-awaited Centex gas station opened up this past week. With over 150 locations across the county, the independent and Canadian-owned company is in the process of growing their identity and their brand. The building has been undergoing upgrades and renovations for the past few months, changing ownership and brands in the process. The chain includes a GoMarket convenience store in the Minden location.

"Since 1986, Centex has been serving communities with a commitment to respect, accountability, teamwork, and a sense of fun," says the brand's website. "Our values are the foundation of our success and drive our continued growth every day."

The chain shared that they keep fuel prices competitive, offer convenient locations, and deliver services for people on the go, "making us a refreshing alternative to the big brands ... As an independent chain, we're free to shop around daily and find the best deals on fuel, so we can pass those savings on to you."

Left, Vijess James and Ryeann Rivers are all smiles welcoming customers on their second day of opening on Wed, June 24. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Mighty machines

Mother Nature was on the side of the annual Minden Kin Club Truck Pull and Show and Shine at the Minden Fairgrounds this past Saturday, June 27. With trucks from all over the province, spectators and drivers had plenty to admire. Truck-appreciators of all ages had a chance to explore the insides of the big rigs on the sunny Saturday. /KAREN LONDON staff

/submitted by Nicholas Smith

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Together, we keep local radio on the air.

Archie Stouffer Elementary School's Grade 8 graduating class of 2026. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Archie Stouffer Valedictorian: *Kelson Bagshaw*

Well, well well … what do we have here?

Kelson Bagshaw valedictorian? If this doesn't prove anyone can do anything if they put their mind to what does? One year ago I had no idea what a valedictorian was or how to pronounce it, yet here I am this evening delivering you this speech.

Good evening teachers, families and friends of the graduating class of 2026. By looking at my friends here tonight we've definitely increased our aura!

Ten years ago, we walked through these doors with backpacks bigger than we were. We were nervous and unsure. Now, we are a group of hardworking, loud, fun, chatty individuals with strong personalities. We became Wildcats, something I am very proud of.

We have made some great memories over these years. Recesses playing football, four square, mini sticks, volleyball circles, and baseball. School trips to bowl, rock climb, swim, going to the pumpkin patch, Santa's Village, Blue Jays game, Activate, Medieval Times, and we must not forget our overnight trip to Camp Muskoka - a trip my Dad and Rod will never forget!

Other highlights this year was the OPP hockey game, winning the county basketball tournament with my team, and the girls volleyball team, beating the boys team not once, but twice!

We've enjoyed helping with junior sports, the odd food fight and sneaking into each other's classrooms.

We definitely rocked the Christmas concert, or so I'm told as I don't remember much as I'm still recovering from the concussion … thanks friends.

We've been lucky enough to have teachers that go above and beyond at Archie. You've gotten to know us, pushed us to our limits and I'm sure we've pushed you to yours. Or at least, I know I have!

We are grateful for your patience and dedication. Let's give our teachers a round of applause.

WAIT!

Two supply teachers added to our Archie experience, Ms. Paul and her typing skills and stories from Mr. McConnell.

As we are going from Wildcats to Hawks, I would like to encourage each of us to set goals. This is a new beginning; sign up for clubs, join teams, attend dances, and stay away from the phone!

Stand your ground and stand up for others, know right from wrong, don't be afraid to look silly or make mistakes. Show up to class and work hard. These next four years will go fast so make the best of them!

Your decisions will shape your journey but never forget where it all began. Archie Stouffer.

So for one last time: Wildcats! Roar!

Congratulations to us all. Thank you.

Kelson Bagshaw

Students that received honours at Archie Stouffer Elementary School's Grade 8 graduation.

JDH Valedictorians: *Aley Jones and Linus Gervais*

Evelyn Mardus, a Grade 8 graduated from JDH, won Athlete of the Year last Tuesday during the school's graduation ceremony. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Valedictorians Aley Jones and Linus Gervais snap a photo following their speech at the JDH graduation last week.

We would like to thank our families and supporters on behalf of all our peers for bringing us on trips, to sports practices, and making sure we got to school safely every day. They have been with us since the beginning, from welcome to kindergarten, and now going into high school, guiding us to good choices and making sure we always tried our best. They stuck by our sides at every cost, and just because we are growing up doesn't mean we don't need you anymore. We are bigger and our adventures and challenges will be bigger so please keep supporting us through our journeys. Parents, you didn't just help us with our math homework or drive us to practice, you officially survived years of middle schoolers going through massive mood swings. Honestly, you deserve a diploma just as much as we do.

Going into Grade 4 was scary for most of us I'm sure. It was hard for our class because we were doing the transition in the middle of COVID, so we missed out on the chance to have Link Day. Although that was less than optimal, it taught us to be resilient and to problem solve while we found our way around our new school. That fear of the big daunting middle school went away quickly because the staff made us feel welcomed and at home. In Grade 4, our biggest achievement was remembering our Google password, now we are graduating JDH. That is a big upgrade.

The past five years at JDH have been unforgettable. The memories made, and friendships formed in our classes and on field trips are unmatched. Whether it was going to Canada's Wonderland, going to the Toronto Zoo ,or going to the Blue Jays game we always had a great time, and don't forget the overnight trip to Camp Muskoka in Grade 6 where you all came home with great memories and I came home with a broken leg. That trip will definitely be unforgettable! From the stories you all told me it sounded fun. Getting to play on so many sports teams this year and making new friends from different classes will always be one of the best memories that we all shared together. We put so much work into these sports and no matter what place we came in at the tournaments we never gave up and that's one of the best lessons we learned. Yes, it's always nice to win (I love winning), but in the end it is the hard work and effort that matters the most. A lot of people like playing sports, but the staff went out of their way to set up clubs like the wellness committee, dance club, and the environmental committee to ensure there was something for everyone.

One of the best parts of getting to grow up in Haliburton, is being able to enjoy the land. Not many schools have a backyard like we do! Whether it was joining a new club, playing baseball, basketball, Capture the Flag and man hunt or even just playing on the playground we had a great time. It was a memorable experience and I hope everyone here enjoyed it as much as we did.

Although the thought of high school might seem frightening, there are many good things to look forward to. There are many opportunities that we don't necessarily have here. We could learn guitar or do woodworking, and pursue a new form of art like pottery or painting. Going into high school, don't think of it as a huge change, it is still just school, and your friends will all be there with you. Also, be yourself. Your best friendships are formed from truths not lies, and if your goal is to be "cool" then you should think again. We will all make so many more memories at HHSS to add on to our collection of amazing memories from JDH.

Now we would like to recognize our teachers for everything they do for us including having patience, especially on Fridays when our attention spans were shorter than the battery life on a school Chromebook. Our teachers always do their best to create the best, most fun year for all of us while still teaching us about cells, algebra, a whole second language, and how to write a proper essay. I will start by recognizing the teachers who taught the French immersion students. I want to thank Mr. Smolen for grading about 50 essays most likely created from the same five Google research pages, and still giving constructive feedback. Mme Bruce for always teaching us proper grammar in French even when I'll still say "je suis fini". Ms. Smith for taking the more boring science units that Ms. Illman didn't take in the first half of the year, and still making them fun and engaging. I want to thank Mr. Dawson for teaching a great gym class where everyone developed, and for making my day in health class with these four words: Let's just go outside. Although I didn't get taught by those teachers, I know they had a huge impact on the other students. I am going to thank the English teachers. First I want to thank Mrs. Phillips, she is always involving herself in the school so we can have a great time. Taking action in school sports teaching everyone new skills each day, setting up electives and activities and making school more fun. Mme Carson, who has taught us new French skills each day and when we have bad days she always has a smile on her face. Mrs. Ramsden, thank you for working hard to make sure all students feel included in school life, making sure her students get to explore the activities they love. Lastly , I want to thank Mr. V, because he always takes the time to get to know who everyone is, not just in the classroom but also outside of school. He is always joking around and cares deeply about all the students, I'm going to miss you, V. It's important to also recognize Ms. Bird and Mr. Waito who are the people who make sure we have this amazing staff and ensure we have opportunities to do fun things.

JDH has been the most fun chapter of my life so far, if it was doing a science project, I had fun. If it was doing a worksheet with Corbin, we made it fun. If it was playing bump outside in Mr Smolens class, I sometimes had fun but not if Nate or Austin were behind me - who definitely loved the BUMP part more than most. 99 per cent of my time at JDH was incredible, but you know what? The one per cent that wasn't might have taught me more than the 99! It is in our mistakes and overcoming challenges that we grow the most.

My time here at JDH will definitely be remembered. Not because of the work, but because of my best friends who have been by my side. I'm so glad I got to experience school with you guys and make the boring parts of school hilarious and fun. If I was going to list off all of the people who made school fun, you guys would probably start scrolling on your phones, but you guys know who you are and just know I'm so glad I got to spend my time here with you.

We have all come so far, learning new things each day. We learned history, we learned science, we learned math and we learned that no matter how smart you are, you will still occasionally try to push a door that says pull. Even though we are all different individuals who were raised in different ways, some French Fries and some English Muffins - if you know you know. In the end we were all on this journey together, and although our paths may go different ways we are all Jags and that will always be our bond. Thank you to our peers for creating memorable moments with us here at JDH. Congratulations class of 2026!

Aley Jones and Linus Gervais

Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000
Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000
Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. ~~Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20~~
~~According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000~~
~~**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**~~

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000
Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/ tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser. A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart,
Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca www.dysartetal.ca

A graduating class of eight crossed the stage at the Wilberforce Community Centre last Wednesday, June 24. Pictured, valedictorians Emmett Wimperly and Morgan McKnight addressed the crowd. /IVY KATZ staff

Wilberforce Valedictorians:
Morgan McKnight and Emmett Wimperly

Good afternoon family, friends, students, staff, distinguished guests and most importantly, graduates. For those of you who aren't familiar with us, I'm Emmett Wimperly, and I'm Morgan McKnight. We speak on behalf of our totally awesome sauce graduating class. Thank you all for coming here today to celebrate with us and supporting us throughout our time at Wilberforce Elementary School.

First off we'd like to thank our teacher Mr. Findeis for always being committed to our education and showing us the importance of applying ourselves throughout all aspects of our lives, and also for putting pencils in his beard and being very coolio (not while playing pickleball though). We've had a lot of fun times in this school with Mr. Findeis, like when we put his stapler in jello, or when I fell asleep mid-inning at the Blue Jays game we all went to. Thanks to Mr. Stretch for letting us try out new instruments, and Mr. Jo, the only French teacher we've had to actually teach us French. Thanks to Erin, for keeping our school extremely clean, and for finding the time to have fun with students. Many thanks to Sandy for all that she does, like organizing school events and continuously finding ways to improve the school.

At this point we'd now like to shout out our graduating classmates starting with myself cause I'm just cool like that, and for always somehow being sick, Conner, for being really helpful when it comes down to computers, Bella, for being the kindest person in the school, Ameira, for always keeping a positive attitude and persevering through new challenges, Ryah, for being so funny and bubbly throughout the year, Phoenix for always having great answers during class discussions, Clayton for being very eccentric and bringing high energy to class, and myself, for being (somewhat) unbothered during the constant teasing delivered by Ryah and Mr. Findeis.

As you can probably tell, we have a small graduating class this year, only eight of us. With that comes many benefits, like being able to create strong relationships with all of our classmates, being able to support one another during tough times and the classroom atmosphere we created, one of mutual respect and freedom of expression. This comes easier with having a small group, but it is still earned. With this freedom comes many opportunities to know each other better and through that, we have created an atmosphere where it was okay to be our unique selves. Not many can say that they experienced grade eight with a minimum of peer pressure, but I am happy to say that we can.

It's been an honour to get to know our fellow graduates and educators. It was and will continue to be a pleasure being able to grow and learn alongside you all. We hope you all succeed in your endeavours, and accomplish the goals you worked towards thus far.

As we head off to high school to take advantage of the opportunity to make new connections, learn new things, and make your mark on the community; we sincerely believe that if you follow the class motto, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to.

With that, "It's okay to not know, but it's not okay to not try!"

Congrats Class Of 2026!

Morgan McKnight and Emmett Wimperly

Principal Jennifer Mills addresses the graduating class of 2026 last Thursday, June 25. Parents, friends, and family members packed the high school gym on the big night. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

HHSS Valedictorian: *Trevin Bain-Gross*

Good evening parents, friends, platform party, and most importantly, a warm welcome to my fellow 2026 graduates. We made it!

Now is the time to reflect on the past four years, particularly all the friends we have made, and all of the memories we have shared. Starting now, there will be no more two month vacations free of any worry or responsibility. No more first days of school when you have to start waking up early again after two months of sleeping in until noon. No more reconnecting with your friends and comparing how interesting each of your summers were. No more deadlines or worries about late assignments. (I'm going to enjoy that one). No more stressing about exams, at least for some of us. That's all come to an end. Once we exit those doors tonight we leave those responsibilities here, and take on new ones in a different way. To some, this means freedom. I know I've never both dreaded and looked forward to something so much in my entire life. And I know many of us have been praying for this day to come for months.

On the other hand it can be scary knowing that we're leaving the hallowed halls of HHSS for good. Personally, I am finding it hard to believe this thing I have been a part of for the majority of my life is finally ending. But like all things, good and bad, they must come to an end. And that's what I find is most exciting about life. The impermanence of it all. The fact that anything and everything will change. And that something new and perhaps unexpected is coming in its place. After all, the only certainty in life is uncertainty. This always fills me with an ambition to not only do, but to see everything I can in this life. And to hold it dear.

We have a finite amount of time on this earth, and I believe that now more than ever we are beginning to fully realize that. However, I think the real panic will set in once we all turn thirty. Apparently, thirty is the age where we all start to feel old. At least that's what I have heard. Regardless of our age, I have thought that our mortality is a constant reminder to never waste a moment that you experience. You can never rewind. As Gord Downie so aptly said, "No dress rehearsal; this is our life."

I have always thought laughter to be the best medicine. These past four years have been filled with so much memorable laughter. Whether it be at a good joke or something dumb one of us did, like the time on a trip to Stratford when me and some friends ordered a pizza to our hotel room and had the driver give it to us through the window. (Mr. Dobson was in the room directly next to us). Or Mr. Klose's use of monkeys in his physics lectures. Even if it was something taboo like the countless times we almost got caught in the green room in the theatre. Those who know, know. A great woman once said in her own Valedictorian speech, "If you can laugh at your mistakes, then you have learned. Having a sense of humour can really take you places." There were so many times we couldn't control our laughter, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Principal Mills hands out a high school diploma to Graham Backus.

Valedictorian Trevin Bain-Gross with his friend, Sadie Evans-Fockler.

I am honoured to be added to the esteemed wall of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Valedictorians. I will be next to legends such as Miles Bascombe who won both Prom King and Queen. And of course my mother, Crystal, who was voted to receive this same award by her peers in 1991. She passed away in 2008 shortly after I was born. Despite me having no recollection of her, I have always strived to do right by my mother's memory, and I believe that today I have. This could never have happened without the support from those I hold dearest. To my friends, who would turn out to become my campaign managers when I didn't know I was running for Valedictorian. To my beautiful girlfriend Fallon, you're my best friend, and best alibi. To my family, my older sister and her husband, my father, and of course my grandparents Brenda and Roger. Words can not express how grateful I am to have you all in my life. You have raised me with love and care making me the person I am today. You taught me how to persevere through struggle. How to never give up. And how to live my life to my full potential. For that I am eternally grateful and could never thank you enough. You are my role models and my inspiration. As for everyone else, all of my friends, teachers, and extended family, I thank you for helping me come so far.

Family members were invited to sit at the front row of the graduation ceremony to take photos of their graduate crossing the stage.

I leave you now, with these parting words. Always try something new. Venture into the unknown. And never give up on the basis of making a mistake. To my fellow Red Hawk graduates, I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. I know all of you are capable of greatness. Thank you everyone, party hard tonight!

Trevin Bain-Gross

Twenty-two accomplished graduates from the Adult and Alternative Education Centre on Wednesday June 24, 2026. /IVY KATZ staff

Chanel B. waves to supporters after receiving an award for academic excellence.

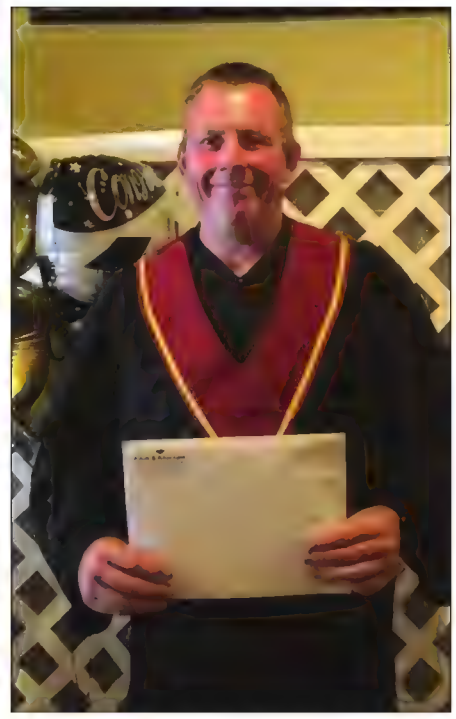
Adult Ed Grad a jubilant event

IVY KATZ

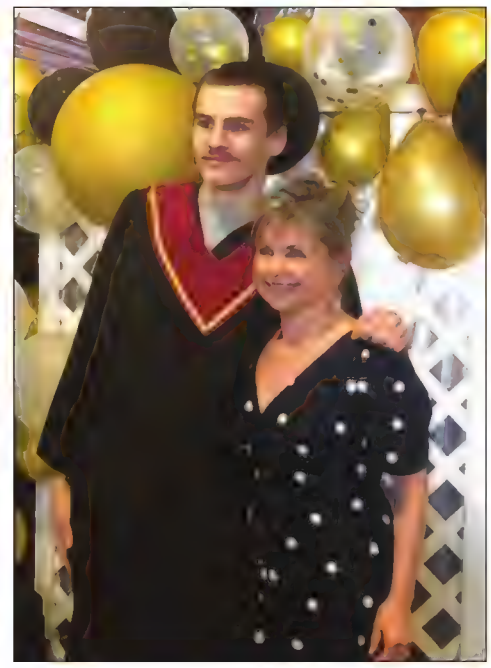
Journalist

McKeck's Tap and Grill was squeezed shoulder-to-shoulder in the area cordoned off for the Haliburton Adult and Alternate Education Centre (AAEC) this past week. On June 24, twenty-two young adults graduated from the AAEC, showing it is never too late, flanked by a room full of family and friends supporting their achievements.

The graduates were praised by teacher and administrative lead Lori Sargent for their hard work, especially in demonstrating diligence and perseverance in the face of obstacles. The grads were lauded for their high intellect and unique abilities. Many of the students won awards which will help them pursue their post-secondary studies. One student had finished the program in December, having since then started his own business while simultaneously taking on-line college courses. The future looks bright for these grads.



Eric Mallet holds up his diploma.



Cody Keller beams as a new grad with teacher and admin lead Lorie at the June 24 Adult and Alternative Education graduation.

Notice
(Applicant –Gubbels)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Little Glamor Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given,pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 14th day of July 2026** at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Road Allowance in Front of Lot 2 and Part of the Road Allowance in front of Lot 3, Concessions 14 and 13, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11245 made by **JBF Surveyors completed January 9, 2026**. *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11245 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 30th day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Notice
(Applicant – Tang/Le)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of an Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 14 th of July, 2026** at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 3, Concession 1, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11204, made by **P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed July 22, 2025.** *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11204 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 30 th day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

A new chapter for Wanakita

This past weekend was the official opening of the Wayne Perkins Leadership Centre at Camp Wanakita. This event will celebrated the completion of a transformative new space, dedicated to youth leadership development, and brought together community leaders, donors, alumni, and campers. Named in honour of longtime Wanakita leader, Wayne Perkins, the centre recognizes his lasting impact while supporting the next generation of leaders. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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We are back for another year with our annual GIGANTICO Garage Sale! Location: 1003 Moonrise Bay Lane (off of Hospitality Road) South Lake, Minden Date: **Thursday, July 2 - Noon-6pm. Friday, July 3 - 8am-4pm. Saturday, July 4 - 8am-4pm.** Follow our road signs! RAIN OR SHINE

Yard Sale - Vintage Coleman Lamps and Stoves and accessories, Antique Oil Lamps
Home Decor Items, Kitchen Supplies Christmas Decorations, Lots for Everyone Come and check it out at Beatty's Sugar Bush, **1135 Mervyn Beatty Lane Drag Lake**. Save the date: Starting July 4 Rail or Shine!!! 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

YARD SALE – **Saturday, July 4**, 1017 Miners' Bay Road. 8am – 3pm Canadiana, Antiques, Post Cards, Old Records, Rocks and Minerals, Coins, Stamps, First Day Covers, Hand Made Rocking Horse, 50" Diameter Solid Oak Round Table, 1860 Jelly Cupboard, American Civil War Books and Artifacts, Old Books, Set of 4 Snow Tires on Rims (235/55R17 993), c. 1947 Model 2N Ford Ferguson Tractor in Running Condition, Seasoned Rough Cut Planks and Boards, some Live Edge, c. 1940 Canadian Buffalo Drill Press, much more…

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Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. **Contact: 705 457 3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com**

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The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

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This role is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, trade agreements, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policies. This role ensures that all procurement documentation and communications comply with legislation and the County's policy for open, transparent, and competitive bidding and tendering processes.

The successful candidate will possess a public purchasing designation, five years of experience and relevant post-secondary education. Hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.29.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 10, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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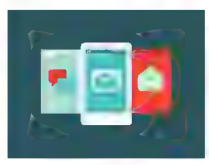

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Laura Ann Willis(Johnson) July 11, 1952

Laura passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 after a courageous journey with Alzheimer's.

Laura leaves behind her loving husband Dave and his children Tanya (Glen) and Teresa (Kevin), her brother Doug (Debbie) and their children Hailey, Harley and Leif. She loved her grandchildren James, Ian, Sydney and Dylan and was proud of each of them.

Laura was a devoted teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary where she dedicated her life to shaping young minds and bodies with patience, passion and encouragement. Teaching was more than a career to Laura, and she leaves behind many students that she guided and supported.

A celebration of Life will be held on Laura's birthday, July 11 at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. # 636, 12847 Hwy 35, Minden from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm.

If you're led to a donation in Laura's memory, donations to the Alzheimer's Society or local organizations would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Phil Sidsworth

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Phil Sidsworth, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and cherished friend to many.

Phil passed away peacefully on June 22, 2026 in Haliburton Hospital with his wife and boys by his side, leaving behind a legacy of love and kindness that touch all who had the privilege of knowing him. Born on March 16, 1956, in Toronto, Phil lived a life rich with family, friends, and fulfilling passions.

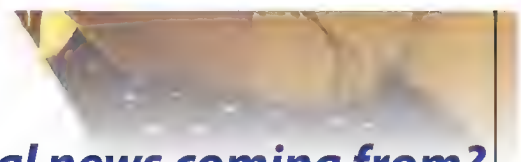
Phil's life was a testament to dedication and affection particularly towards his beloved family. As a devoted husband to Elaine, and proud father to Ryan (Denise) and Michael, Phil's heart was filled with unconditional love that extended to his treasured grandchildren, Brooklyn and Leanne. He was pre deceased by his Mother, Carol Sidsworth, by his brother Paul Woods and is survived by his brother Mark Sidsworth.

Special thanks to the Dr's and Nursing team in the Acute Care at Haliburton Hospital for the dedicated care and support they richly provided.

A get together to celebrate Phil's life will be arranged at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for donations directed to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



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OBITUARIES

Whittaker, Sandra

Passed away peacefully, with family by her side, at Chapman House on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Born in Haliburton on April 17, 1944, Sandra Lynn Whittaker (nee Scott) of Hepworth was 82 years old.

Loving mother of Heidi Nelthorpe (Chris) of Hepworth and Billy Whittaker (Rey) of Texas. Cherished grandma of McKinnon (Nate) and Brooks. Proud great grandma of Paxton. Sister of Randy Scott of London. Sandra will also be missed by her close-like-a-brother cousin Scott LaRue, and by her special friend Peter Willms.

Predeceased by her infant daughter Jodi, parents Murray and Marguerite Scott, and by her infant sisters Linda and Margeurite Ann.

Sandra grew up in West Guilford and held her family close to her heart. She found her greatest joy in being a mother, grandmother, and greatgrandmother. Known fondly as "Auntie San," she brought warmth and love to many children's lives.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to the staff at Kelso Pines Retirement Home, Chapman House, and Dr. Van Zyl for the many years of wonderful care provided to Sandra. Thanks also to the Grey County Community Paramedics and Paramedics for all of their care.

In keeping with Sandra's wishes, cremation is taking place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Brian E. Wood Funeral Home, Owen Sound, 519-376-7492.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to Grey Bruce Hospice Foundation-Chapman House would be appreciated. Online condolences can be sent to Sandra's family by visiting her memorial at www.woodfuneralhome.ca.

Fill not your heart with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.
Remember the joy, the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving causes pain and grief,
my going has eased my hurt and given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me
not as I am now, but as I use to be.
Because I will remember you all and look on with a smile,
Understand, in your hearts, I've only gone to rest a little while.
As long as I have the love of each of you,
I can live my life in the hearts of all of you.
Joey Beighley

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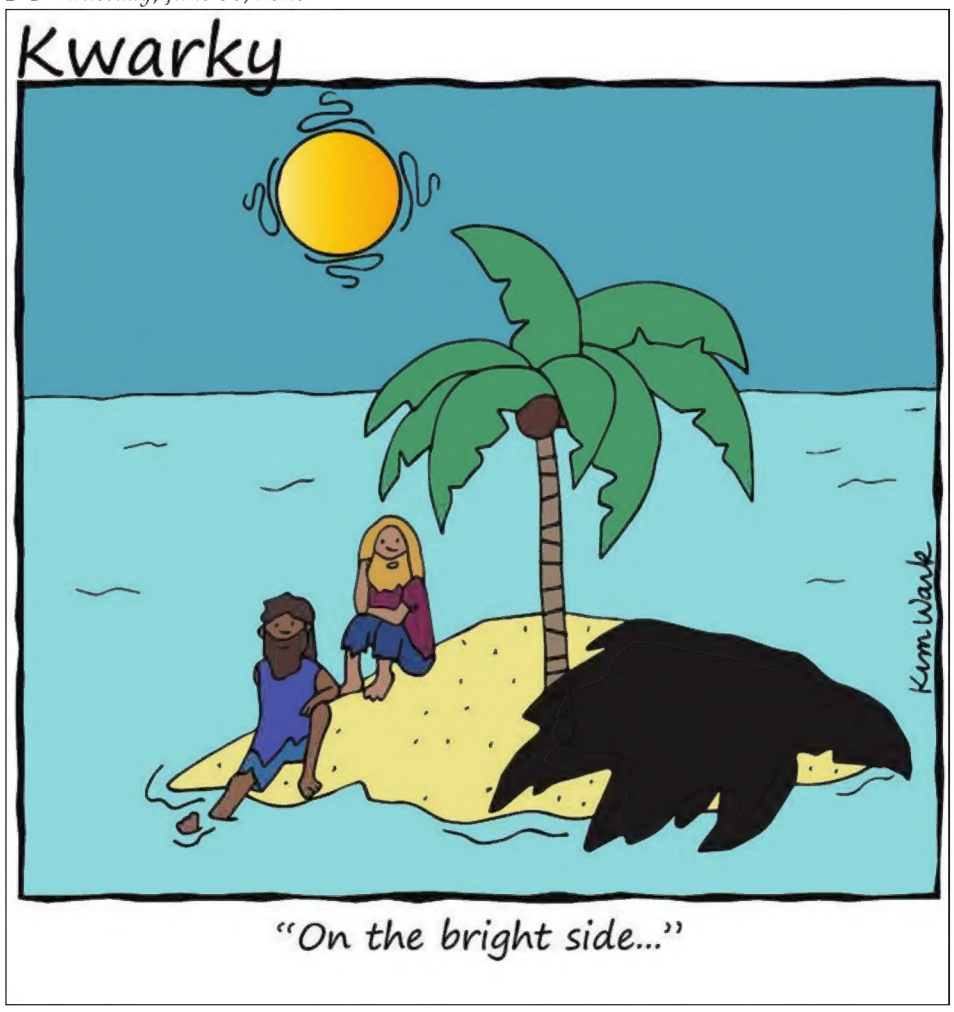

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8	3							
		5			8			
	2						1	5
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	4			7		2		
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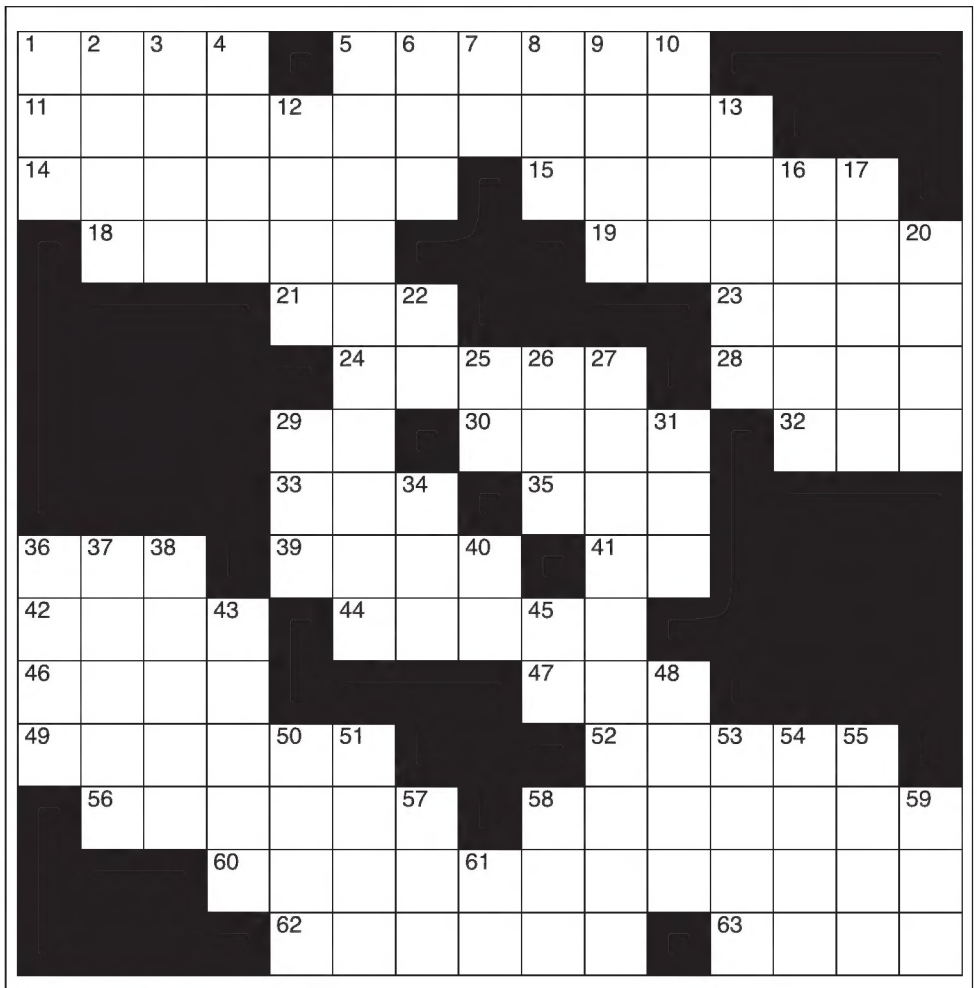
	5							

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. __ chat
5. Statue near the Pyramids
11. A process to change the look
14. Herb
15. Think about excessively
18. Bass vocal part
19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Cognitive contents
28. Lump of yarn
29. Atomic #109
30. Let go of
32. Indian title of respect
33. Whereabouts unknown
35. Electronic data processing
36. DriversÕ licenses count
39. Snakelike fishes
41. They precede C
42. Popular personal computers
44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. Indicates position
49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. __ Falls
60. Reassertions
62. Eras
63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN
1. Corporate executive
2. A plant used for flavoring food
3. Opinion or belief
4. Sheep in their second year
5. Intensities of sound
6. Indicates support for
7. Expression of laughter
8. OJ trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. True bugs genus
12. Lawyers argue theirs
13. Body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Commercial
25. ÒWestworldÓ actor Harris
26. They __
27. Religious guilds
29. Woman (French)
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Older citizen
43. Scad fish genus
45. Morning
48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
50. Double S-shaped curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Older
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the __ degree
59. Residue
61. It cools your home

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THIS WEEK
Mural Art
Lynn Roberge-Brohm gets her message across... pg 3

FEATURE
NO LIFE LIKE IT
Anna Tomlinson loves her job as MNR firefighter

COUNTY LIFE
Start of the line
Guy Scott explores the beginning of the Victoria Railway

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ECHO
The Voice of the Highlands since 1884

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1997 Vol. 115, No. 20 • 48 PAGES 90 cents (incl. GST)

Architect helps health board set sights on construction

by MARIA CALABRESE
Staff Reporter

After its inaugural year in operation, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation may be wrestling with a $75,000 deficit, but it has its sights set on the capital project at Haliburton Hospital and Hyland Crest.

The board's annual general meeting, held on June 26 at Minden's Community Centre, was attended by Millet Salter from Salter and Associates, the Barrie-based architectural firm selected to design both sites.

Salter's firm just finished construction of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie, a $75-million project that was a joint effort with another firm. Salter presented what he called "very preliminary" schematics of the renovations that will accommodate the existing 62 long-term care beds at Hyland Crest, the new emergency department at the site and 30 new long-term care beds at Haliburton Hospital.

"A hospital and a long-term care facility have real benefits in being joined together, but there also has to be a degree of separation. The residents of the long-term care facilities call these facilities home," Salter said.

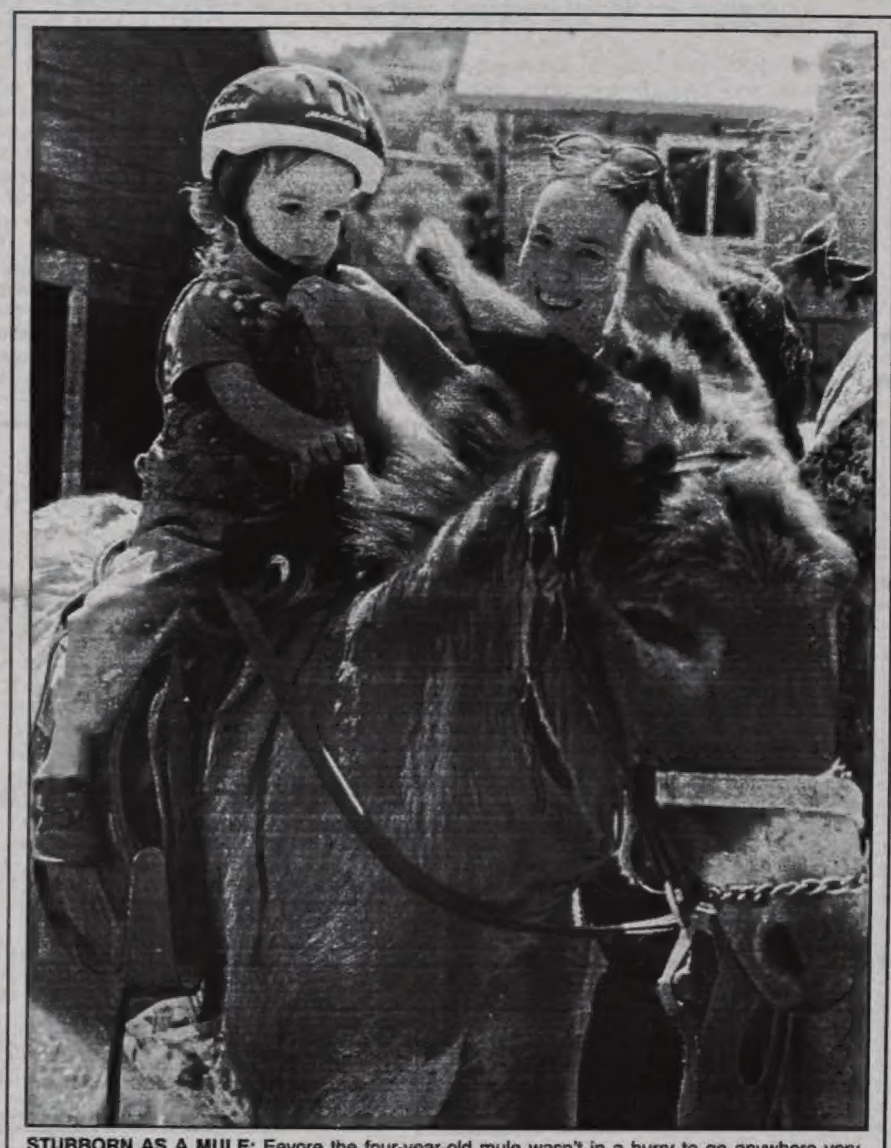
He added that privacy, support and security both during renovations and after the work is completed would be ensured for the residents at both locations. Also, the two sites would be left as one tender.

"There are two different approaches, two different sites, two different sets of needs but many commonalities of services, functions and components," he said.

The existing Haliburton site has 10 acute-care beds and will be given three more beds. The upgraded facility with 32 long-term care beds will probably be connected with a common entrance but separated, Salter explained.

Visitors' parking for the hospital and for the long-term care facility may be expanded to the rear, but he said soil conditions

See CONSTRUCTION page 4



STUBBORN AS A MULE: Eeyore the four-year-old mule wasn't in a hurry to go anywhere very fast, which suited two-year-old Daniel Gardiner just fine. Daniel and his mother Eliza were at Eagle Lake Farms to look at the animals and take a saunter around the barnyard.

Voting by mail or phone nixed this time around

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It looks like cottagers will have to vote the old-fashioned way this November – by driving up to the Highlands and casting a vote at their municipality's polling station.

While many municipalities had hoped they could make it easier by allowing voting by mail or phone – or even setting up a polling station in Toronto –, it seems there are too many uncertainties to make it feasible this time around.

"There's no security on these (mail-in) ballots," said Cardiff deputy-reeve Doug Holman at Wednesday's county council meeting. If people received a ballot by mail and decided not to vote, "the possibility exists that people could sell off their ballots and a group could take over a municipality."

What if the ballot is lost in the mail or not delivered on time? Canada Post is responsible for ensuring that ballots are delivered, but people who don't get one will likely complain to their municipal clerks who can do little to resolve the problem.

"We did a lot of research and did not get a lot of satisfactory

See VOTING page 7

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Talks begin on amalgamation options

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Municipal clerks have taken out their pencils and erasers to try to figure out the financial repercussions of what would happen if the borders between some municipalities are removed.

County council has asked the clerks to look at the financial impact of three restructuring ideas:

- *County government plus three municipalities:*
  - Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon, Minden, Stanhope, Sherborne
  - Harcourt, Bicroft, Cardiff, Monmouth, Glamorgan
  - Dysart et al less Harcourt, and Snowdon
- *County plus four municipalities:*
  - Sherborne, Stanhope
  - Anson, Hindon, Minden, Lutterworth, Snowdon
  - Dysart et al less Harcourt, Glamorgan
  - Harcourt, Monmouth, Cardiff, Bicroft
- *County plus three municipalities (alternate):*
  - Snowdon, Glamorgan, Cardiff, Bicroft, Monmouth
  - Lutterworth, Anson, Hindon, Minden, Stanhope, Sherborne
  - Dysart et al

"We're here to lead our communities and we can't be blinded by what's happening in the rest of the province," Warden Murray Fearrey said to fellow county councillors last month when he proposed that council at least consider the other restructuring options. "You may not want to do it, but as leaders we should look at them."

Up until now, county council has considered and rejected a

See AMALGAMATION page 7

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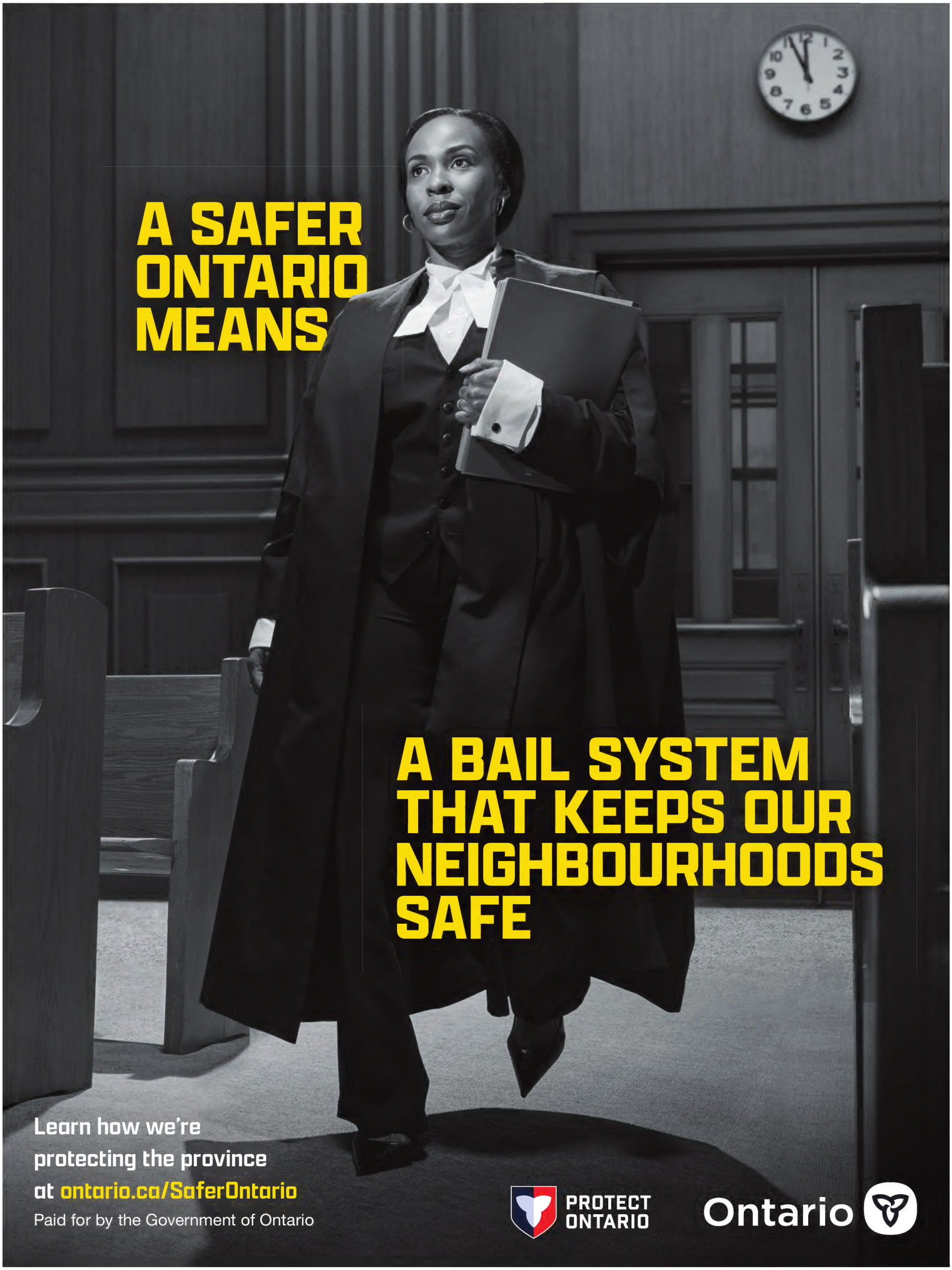
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